FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

7 MARCH 1984

Lebanon

Political Developments — The second round of the National Dialogue Conference will begin on 12 March in Lausanne, Switzerland, under President Amin al-Jumayyil's chairmanship, Beirut radio reported. A "reliable source" cited by the radio said the conference will not last more than 2 days and will agree on the "broad lines" of reforms to be adopted by a national unity government. Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt indicated that he has dropped his demand for Al-Jumayyil's resignation but continued to insist that the president be held accountable for the Army's shelling of Druze and Shi'ite areas, according to remarks reported by Radio Monte Carlo. Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri likewise stressed that his movement has not yet achieved its objectives, which are the cancellation of political sectarianism and the liberation of southern Lebanon, Beirut radio reported. On the Christian side, former President Camille Sham'un's National Liberal Party issued a statement broadcast by Voice of Lebanon radio opposing the government's decision to abrogate the agreement with Israel and also regretting that the government has not invited representatives of all the main Christian communities to the conference in Lausanne.

Libya's Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi welcomed the abrogation of the 17 May agreement, asserting in remarks reported by JANA that Libyan troops in the Al-Biqa' valley must either join the Lebanese in fighting the Israelis, "if there is a need for them," or return to Syria or Libya after having accomplished their mission.

Saudi King Fahd telephoned President Hafiz al-Asad to congratulate the Syrian leader on his success in securing the abrogation of the 17 May accord, Damascus radio reported. While "observers" pointed out that abrogation of the agreement proves it is "impossible to achieve a unilateral agreement between the Zionist enemy and any Arab state in accordance with Israeli-U.S. conditions," the radio said, they also warned that Israel may carry out a major operation against Syria's Armed Forces.

Security Situation — Beirut radio said the situation in and around the capital was relatively calm on the morning of 7 March. A rocket exploded inside the French Embassy compound the previous evening but caused no casualties, AFP noted. In the south, a villager was killed in a clash with Israeli troops, Jerusalem radio reported, while a bomb exploded in Sidon near an IDF convoy in which Minister Without Portfolio Ari'el Sharon was traveling.

Syria

President al-Asad has accepted the resignation of the cabinet headed by Prime Minister 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm and asked Al-Kasm to form a new government, Damascus radio reported. The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon linked these developments with a "power struggle"between the government and Rif'at al-Asad, the president's brother and commander of the Defense Companies, who recently strengthened his forces in Damascus because of a dispute with the government over promotions and appointments in the Armed Forces.

PLO Affairs

"Most" of the PLO dissidents responsible for driving Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his supporters out of Lebanon have "regrouped" in the Dar'a region of Syria near the Jordanian border, AFP reported citing a "well-informed source" in Beirut. The move is seen as coinciding with the renewed dialogue between 'Arafat and Jordan's King Husayn, AFP added.

An anti-'Arafat station calling itself "the Voice of Palestine, the Voice of the Palestinian Revolution, the Voice of National Unity" was monitored recently broadcasting commentaries critical of the PLO-Jordanian talks and 'Arafat's leadership and supportive of further alliances with the socialist states.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi forces launched a "large-scale" attack on 6 March on Iranian troops currently occupying the Majnun Islands, Iraqi Defense Minister 'Adnan Khayrallah announced at a news conference reported by Amman radio and television. The "liberation" of this land, which is the "only" Iraqi territory now under Iranian occupation, was delayed by "other priorities in military calculations" as well as by the difficult terrain, the minister emphasized. The Majnun oil wells have not yet been exploited, but Iraqi forces have taken "all the technical precautions" necessary to protect them, he said.

In a military communique broadcast by Tehran radio, Iran claimed to have "heroically" repulsed the Iraqi counterattack against the southern part of the Majnun Islands. Iranian forces killed or wounded more than 1,000 Iraqi troops and partially destroyed five brigades and one infantry battalion, the communique added.

At his news conference, the Iraqi minister also announced that although the Super Etendard has "given us a longer arm," Iraq will use the Exocet missiles it possesses on "transportation means" other than this plane, Radio Monte Carlo reported. Should the need arise, Iraq will "destroy" Khark Island and do its best to stop Iran exporting its oil, the minister warned.

Meanwhile, President Saddam Husayn, in a speech reported by INA, denounced the "hypocrisy" of the U.S. statement accusing Iraq of using chemical weapons against the Iranians. The United States "borrowed" this claim from Iran in an attempt to "curry" its favor, Saddam added. An Iraqi spokesman, in a statement to INA, said that the U.S. statement contained "many fallacies" and merely repeated Iran's "lies." Iraq will ignore these "unconfirmed allegations" which seek to divert attention from Iranian aggression against Iraq's land and people, the spokesman stated.

Israel

Three people were killed and several others were wounded when an explosive device went off aboard a bus in Ashdod on 7 March, IDF Radio announced. Several suspects have been arrested but no group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that he "has no words to denounce" the shooting incident involving a bus in the Ramallah District on 4 March, Jerusalem television reported. Three of the seven suspects detained in connection with the "ambush" have been released for lack of evidence, Jerusalem radio stated. All seven detainees are members of the KAKH Movement, IDF Radio said citing remarks by the movement's leader, Rabbi Me'ir Kahana. Rabbi Kahana denied initiating the attack but said that he in no way condemned it, Jerusalem radio reported.

Kuwait

French Defense Minister Charles Hernu denied that a military agreement had been signed during talks with his Kuwaiti counterpart, KUNA reported. His visit was aimed primarily at reviewing existing military cooperation between France and Kuwait and ensuring that agreements concluded last year are being implemented. Discussions also centered on the Lebanese crisis and the Iran-Iraq war. The French Minister affirmed his country's readiness to equip and train the "fledgling" armed force of the GCC, KUNA added.

Libya

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and other ranking Libyan officials met with a Bulgarian delegation led by Todor Zhivkov on 6 March, JANA reported.

FBIS
DAILY REPORT
CONTENTS
Middle East & Africa

Vol V No 046 *7 March 1984*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

- PLO Dissidents Regroup Near Jordanian Border *[AFP]* .... A 1
- Fatah's Khalaf on USSR Mediation, Other Topics *[AL-KHALIJ 5 Mar]* .... A 1
- Palestinian CP Official Interviewed *[Prague RUDE PRAVO 3 Mar]* .... A 1
- PLO's Al-Wazir on Meetings of Joint Committee *[Amman AR-RA'Y 6 Mar]* .... A 4
- Syrian Victory in Treaty Abrogation Questioned *[Baghdad Voice of PLO]* .... A 4
- Possible Israeli Measures Against Amman Talks *[Baghdad Voice of PLO]* .... A 5
- Resistance Operation in Sidon Reported *[Baghdad Voice of PLO]* .... A 5
- Baghdad PLO Radio Reports West Bank Demonstrations .... A 5
- New Palestinian Radio Station Heard Broadcasting .... A 5

ARABIAN PENINSULA

BAHRAIN

- Amir Leaves Manama for Saudi Arabia Visit .... C 1
- Amir Receives Arab League's Klibi 6 March .... C 1
- Mauritanian Energy Minister Arrives for Visit .... C 1
  - Mauritania President's Message .... C 1
- AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ Views U.S. Policy in Gulf .... C 1
- AKHBAR AL-KHAIJ on 17 May Agreement Annulment .... C 1

KUWAIT

- French Defense Minister Denies Military Accord .... C 1
- Two New Bombing Suspects Detained .... C 2
- Foreign Minister Comments on Treaty Abrogation .... C 2
- AL-WATAN on U.S. Third Party Warning to Iran .... C 2
- Dailies View Abrogation of Lebanon Agreement .... C 3

PDRY

- Soviet Trade Delegation Departs 6 March .... C 4

QATAR

- Arab League's Klibi Arrives in Doha 6 Mar .... C 4
  - Amir Receives Chadli Klibi .... C 4
- Mauritanian Energy Minister Arrives in Doha .... C 4
  - Mauritanian Minister Departs .... C 4

SAUDI ARABIA

- French Defense Minister Arrives 6 March .... C 4
  - French Defense Minister Departs .... C 4
- King Fahd Holds Talks with Bahraini Amir .... C 4
  - King Fahd Meets Bahraini Delegation .... C 4
- Ministers Receive French Foreign Trade Minister .... C 5
- Prince Sultan on Hernu Visit, Lebanon, Iran-Iraq .... C 5

UAE

- Somalia Foreign Minister Meets Counterpart ... C 5
- Mauritanian Energy Minister Leaves Abu Dhabi ... C 5
- President Receives U.S. Ambassador 6 March ... C 5
- DFLP Leader Hawatimah Arrives 6 March ... C 5
  - Meets President ... C 6

EGYPT

- 'Ali Interviewed on Arab, African Issues *[AKHIR SA'AH]* ... D 1
  - Abrogation of 17 May Agreement ... D 1
- 'Ali Discusses Relations With Somalia's Samantar ... D 1
  - Samantar Received by Mubarak ... D 1
- Lebanon's Al-Jumayyil Telephones Mubarak ... D 1
- Media Comment of Abrogation of 17 Mar Agreement ... D 1
  - AL-AKHBAR Editorial ... D 1
  - Radio on 'Step Toward Unity' ... D 2
  - AL-JUMHURIYAH Editorial ... D 2
- Italy's Andreotti in Cairo for Talks ... D 3
  - Received by Mubarak ... D 3
- Yugoslav Delegation Arrives for Economic Talks ... D 3
- Sudanese Parliamentary Delegation Arrives 5 Mar ... D 3
- EC's Thorn Leaves Cairo After 3-day Visit ... D 3
- Isma'il Fahmi Joins New Wafd Party *[London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT]* ... D 3

IRAQ

- President Challenges Charges on 'Poison Gas' ... E 1
- Defense Minister Holds News Conference 6 Mar ... E 3
  - Discusses Exocets, Super Etendards *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* ... E 3
  - On Majnun Island Assault *[Amman]* ... E 4
  - Further on Majnun Attack *[Amman]* ... E 4
- Khayrallah: 'Traditional Weapons' Used *[Amman]* ... E 4
- Armed Forces Communique No 1,396 — 6 March ... E 4
- East Tigris Commander Describes Recent Operations ... E 5
- Contract With USSR To Study Nuclear Power Site ... E 6
- Arab League's Klibi Arrives in Baghdad 6 Mar ... E 6
  - Tariq 'Aziz Receives Klibi ... E 6

JORDAN

- JORDAN TIMES Considers Prospects for Lebanon *[6 Mar]* ... F 1
- AR-RA'Y on PLO-Jordan Talks, Israeli Reaction *[1 Mar]* ... F 1
- Correction to Jordan Section of 2 Mar DAILY REPORT ... F 1

LEBANON

- National Dialogue Conference To Open 12 Mar ... G 1
  - Source Quoted on Agenda ... G 1
  - Salim, Birri Discuss Conference ... G 1
- Opposition Leaders' Meetings ... G 1
  - P. al-Jumayyil, Sham'un Remarks *[Radio Free Lebanon]* ... G 1
  - Armenian Bishop's Comment ... G 2
- Birri Comments on Abrogation, Reconciliation ... G 2
  - Demands Not Affected *[Voice of the Mountain]* ... G 2
- Further Reaction to Abrogation of 17 May Pact ... G 2
  - PSP Issues Statement *[Voice of the Mountain]* ... G 2
- Shams ad-Din Hails Abrogation ... G 3
  - Franjiyah Expresses Thanks ... G 3

  - Further Remarks Cited *[Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon]* .... G 4
- Communist Party Statement *[Voice of Arab Lebanon]* .... G 4
  - Liberal Christians Comment .... G 4
- Salim Briefs Political Committee on Developments .... G 4
- Lebanese Forces Commander Opposes Concessions *[Radio Free Lebanon]* .... G 4
- Junblatt on Dialogue Meeting, Al-Jumayyil *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* .... G 4
  - JORDAN TIMES Report *[7 Mar]* .... G 5
- AFP: French Expecting Attacks by Islamic Jihad .... G 5
  - Rocket Damages Empty Embassy .... G 5
- AFP: Libya Said To Offer Al-Jumayyil Troops .... G 6
- Israeli Officers Inspect New Lines in South .... G 6
- Israeli Forces Raid Qana Town in South .... G 6
- Beirut Reports on Explosion in Sidon .... G 6
- RFL Reports on Power Struggle in Syria .... G 6
- RFL: Envoy to Argentina Hands in Resignation .... G 6
- RFL: Arens' Visit to Forces Command Denied .... G 7
- VOL: Source Denies Salim Requested Meeting .... G 7

SYRIA

- Al-Asad Designates Al-Kasm To Form New Cabinet .... H 1
- Ba'th Party Statement on 17 May Agreement .... H 1
  - Further Details .... H 1
- Damascus Reports Saudi King Congratulatory Call .... H 2
- Al-Ahmar Receives Somali Delegation 6 Mar .... H 2
- Damascus on Domestic, Foreign Support for Al-Asad .... H 2
- Damascus Cites Reaction to Treaty Abrogation .... H 2
- ATH-THAWRAH on Strategic Triumph in Lebanon .... H 3
- TISHRIN on Surian Triumph, Egyptian People's Hope .... H 3
- AL-BA'TH Sees Beginning of Camp David's Fall .... H 3

ISRAEL

- Explosion Occurs on Ashdod Bus 7 March .... I 1
  - Suspects Arrested .... I 1
  - Report on Casualties .... I 1
  - Death Toll at Three .... I 1
- Levi Discusses Abrogation With Lebanese Christians .... I 1
  - Levi on Negotiations Proposal .... I 1
- Government Rejection of New Lebanon Talks Reported .... I 2
- Kimche Warns Syrians Against Confrontation .... I 2
- Al-Asad Orders Terrorists to Syria-Jordan Border .... I 2
- Defense Minister Arens Visits Sidon 6 March .... I 2
  - Arens on New Talks .... I 3
- Minister Pat Returns From U.S., FRG, Romania Visits .... I 3
- Minister Pat To Visit Cairo Fair 9 March *[MA'ARIV 6 Mar]* .... I 3
- MK Porat, Tehiya, Resigning From Knesset .... I 4
  - MK's Seek New Party *[THE JERUSALEM POST 5 Mar]* .... I 4
  - Levinger, Others Resigning .... I 4
- Two Soldiers Injured in Ramallah 5 March .... I 4
- Shamir Denounces 4 Mar Attack on Arab Bus .... I 4
- Three Suspects in Arab Bus Attack Released .... I 5
  - 'Campaign of Slander' Charged .... I 5
  - Kahana Defends Jewish Attacks .... I 5
- Paper Reports Findings on TNT Organization *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 6 Mar]* .... I 5
- Jewish Students Sentenced for Attacking Arabs .... I 6
- West Bank Heads Who Met 'Arafat Face Reprimand *[THE JERUSALEM POST 5 Mar]* .... I 6
- Shamir 'Will Not Tolerate' Unemployment *[HA'ARETZ 7 Mar]* .... I 6
- U.S. Demands Israel Take 'Drastic' Economic Measures *[DAVAR 2 Mar]* .... I 6
- Man Killed in Clash With IDF in South Lebanon .... I 7
  - Military Sources Deny Responsibility .... I 7

- Peres on Lebanon, Settlements, Other Issues *[THE JERUSALEM POST 4 Mar]* ..... I 7
- South Lebanese Officer on Shi'ites, Attacks *[[MA'ARIV 2 Mar]* ..... I 7
- Camille Sham'un Opposed to Accord Abrogation *[HADASHOT 4 Mar]* ..... I 8
- Dani Sham'un on Continuing Ties With Israel *[HADASHOT 6 Mar]* ..... I 8
- South Lebanese Christians Ready for Military Role ..... I 8
- MA'ARIV Commentary on Lebanon Agreement *[5 Mar]* ..... I 8
- HA'ARETZ Commentary on U.S. Mideast Policy *[2 Mar]* ..... I 9
- HA'ARETZ on Need for Dialogue With Shi'ites *[2 Mar]* ..... I 10
- HADASHOT on Indecision on Lebanon *[4 Mar]* ..... I 12
- Sharon Remarks on Need To Settle Nabulus ..... I 12
  - Calls for More Settlements ..... I 13
  - Criticizes Government, U.S. Administration ..... I 13
  - Sharon on Lebanon Arrangements ..... I 13
- Prime Minister's Office Denies Sharon Charges ..... I 14
- Sidon Explosion Misses Sharon Convoy 6 March ..... I 14
- Egyptian Delegation Visits; Incident in Tabah *[HA'ARETZ 4 Mar]* ..... I 14

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

- OAU Expresses 'Understanding' for Talks With RSA *[AFP]* ..... P 1
  - Ministerial Session Ends *[Addis Ababa]* ..... P 1
- Correction to 2 March Inter-African Affairs Section ..... P 1

NORTH AFRICA

LIBYA

- Bulgaria's Zhivkov, Delegation Arrive 6 Mar ..... Q 1
  - Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With Zhivkov ..... Q 1
- Further Report on Al-Qadhdhafi 5 March Speech ..... Q 1
- Libyan Role in Abrogation of 17 May Treaty Cited ..... Q 2
- JANA Editor Comments on 17 May Treaty Abrogation ..... Q 2

SUDAN

- President Numayri Receives U.S. Envoy 6 Mar ..... Q 3
- Lagu Urges Southerners To Resort to Dialogue ..... Q 3
- National Action Leaders on Communism in Sudan ..... Q 4
- Briefs: Envoy to Jordan ..... Q 4

TUNISIA

- Algerian Party Official Ends Talks in Tunis *[Algiers]* ..... Q 4
- Communique Issued on Algerian-Tunisian Party Talks ..... Q 4

EAST AFRICA

ETHIOPIA

- Foreign Trade Minister Opens ECA Planning Meeting ..... R 1
- Eritrean Rebel Leader Views Horn Situation *[London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 5 Mar]* ..... R 1

TANZANIA

- Foreign Minister Comments on OAU Meeting Results ..... R 2
- Delegation Leaves for Paris Financial Talks ..... R 2

CENTRAL AFRICA

CHAD

Opposition Faction Reconciles With Government *[SUNA]* ..... S 1
ANL Victory Over FAN Forces at Am Timan Depicted *[Bardai Radio]* ..... S 1

RWANDA

Foreign Minister Returns From OAU Meeting ..... S 1

WEST AFRICA

NIGERIA

Police in Bauchi Arrest 104 Maitatsine Followers ..... T 1
Police Official Says 535 Killed in Yola Riots ..... T 1
Border Security Questioned in Wake of Rioting ..... T 1
    New Border Policy Forthcoming ..... T 1
Minister Views Progress in Negotiations With IMF ..... T 1
    African Economic Policies Assessed ..... T 2
Papers Comment on Bilateral Talks With Libya ..... T 2

UPPER VOLTA

Sankara Sends Message to OAU on SDAR Recognition *[PANA]* ..... T 2
Tribunal Hands Down Suspended Sentences, Fines ..... T 3

SOUTHERN AFRICA

ANGOLA

Foreign Minister Assesses Tripartite Talks *[APS]* ..... U 1
Soviet Ambassador Kalinin Tours Benguela, Namibe ..... U 1

LESOTHO

Opposition Member Resigns From National Assembly ..... U 1
    Commentary on Resignation ..... U 2

MOZAMBIQUE

NOTICIAS Stresses Importance of RSA Peace Pact ..... U 2
Nordic, FRG Delegations Visit Tete Province ..... U 2
Briefs: Envoy Meets GDR's Honecker ..... U 2
    Norwegian Financial Assistance

NAMIBIA

Shipanga: Nujoma Never Tried for Toivo Release *[SAPA]* ..... U 2
SWAPO Attempting To 'Kill Off' RSA-Angola Accord *[Johannesburg]* ..... U 3
SWAPO Rejects S. Africa's 'Neocolonial' Solutions *[Lusaka Voice of Namibia]* ..... U 4

SOUTH AFRICA

2 More ANC Leaders Offered 'Freedom' in Transkei *[RAND DAILY MAIL 7 Mar]* ..... U 4
RSA Assistance for SADCC Termed 'Welcome' ..... U 5
    RSA Chairman Expresses Optimism ..... U 5
Bill Would Obligate Immigrants for Military Service ..... U 5
Military Accepts Two-Thirds of Colored Applicants ..... U 6
Ciskei To Establish Ministry of Defense 1 April ..... U 6
Bophuthatswana Passes Bill Banning Trade Unions ..... U 6

ZAMBIA

Prime Minister Mundia Meets Soviet Delegation .... U 6
    Provincial Head Expresses Gratitude .... U 6

ZIMBABWE

SADCC Executive Secretary Blumeris Dies in Harare .... U 6
Mugabe Says Local Government Democratized .... U 7
Matabeleland North Leader Cites Development Goals .... U 7

PLO Dissidents Regroup Near Jordanian Border

NC061232 Paris AFP in English 1218 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Beirut, March 6 (AFP) — Most of the dissidents who drove PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and his supporters out of Lebanon last year have regrouped in Syria, near the Jordanian border, a well-informed source said here. The dissidents moved into the Dar'a region of Syria after taking the Nahr al-Barid and al-Baddawt Camps near Tripoli, north Lebanon, from Mr 'Arafat and his supporters in November, with Syrian aid. The move coincided with the reopening of dialogue between Mr 'Arafat and King Husayn of Jordan. There were also signs that Palestinian troops had moved out of the mountain region round Beirut, the source said.

Large numbers of Palestinian troops were involved in fighting in the mountains in September, but only a few took part in a battle between the Lebanese Army and anti-government forces in the mountains southeast of Beirut last month, the source added.

Fatah's Khalaf on USSR Mediation, Other Topics

GF061600 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 5 Mar 84 P 14

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, by unidentified *AL-KHALIJ* correspondent, in Kuwait — no date given]

[Excerpt] *AL-KHALIJ*: We began the interview by asking Abu Iyad about the visit of Faruq Qaddumi, alias Abu al-Lutf, head of the PLO Political Department, to Damascus and about the reports and speculation on the imminent restoration of relations between Syria and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Khalaf: The visit of Brother Abu al-Lutf to Syria was a private one, but he did meet with [Syrian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister] Brother 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam. I believe that there are some positive aspects in the situation — although I understood from Abu al-Lutf's visit that contacts with Damascus need some time. We are anxious to have good relations with Syria. We never opposed such a relationship. In any case one does not want to rake up the past. We say that in view of the present state of Arab impotency there is a need to unify the ranks and attempt to heal the rift so that we can confront U.S. hegemony over us — particularly as the possibility of a national settlement does not appear on the horizon and all roads are closed. It is necessary to dig up a new road that would create a balance in the region, a balance that will make it possible to talk about a national settlement. What we have now is only a U.S. settlement, a settlement intended to liquidate the Palestinian cause. There is nothing else. Therefore, we believe that the reunification of the ranks of all Arab nationalist forces should be our objective in the next stage.

AL-KHALIJ: How true are the reports that there are Soviet efforts to heal the rift between the PLO and Damascus?

Khalaf: The fact is that ever since the differences between us and Syria began, the Soviet Union has constantly been intervening and mediating — and we left the door open to such mediation. Recently such mediation was renewed and the Soviet Union asked to mediate in restoring PLO-Syrian relations to normal, so that — as I have said — we can create a new balance in the region. The Soviet Union is anxious that PLO-Syrian relations remain strong and is constantly working toward achieving this end.

AL-KHALIJ: Will the resumption of normal relations with Damascus lead to the resumption of relations with the dissidents in Fatah and the PLO?

Khalaf: The issue of the dissidents has been decided and finished: They have been expelled from the movement. I told them to have the courage and set up a new organization and call it whatever they want and thus continue their work through such an organization. As for returning to Fatah or claiming to be Fatah — this is not a subject for discussion, talks, negotiations or consultation.

AL-KHALIJ: There are reports that there has been a call to convene a Palestinian meeting in Aden to be attended by Fatah, the DFLP, the PFLP, and the Palestinian Communist Party. Is this true? What agenda has been proposed for the meeting?

Khalaf: Following Brother Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo there has been some kind of division within the Palestinian movement. The PFLP and DFLP and other factions whom we respect have made their stand clear on the division and on the visit. There are attempts to strike at Palestinian action and the PLO. Therefore, one of the priorities for national action now — a priority that is more important than any political move — is to restore Palestinian unity. PLO unity can be achieved only within the framework of an understanding among the independent Palestinian forces represented by the organizations I have mentioned. We are anxious that the objectives of the present stage will be accurately defined at such a meeting on the basis of PNC resolutions, particularly PNC resolutions adopted at the Algiers session, and that some kind of charter is drafted. Such a charter should define what is prohibited in the Palestinian arena and what is taboo in political action and even what is prohibited in organizational action. I believe that by doing this we can rebuild PLO unity well. This is the purpose of the meeting. We hope that the said organizations will respond fully.

AL-KHALIJ: Has a date been fixed for the meeting?

Khalaf: No date has been fixed so far. Fatah is supposed to take the initiative that will help to convene the meeting.

Palestinian CP Official Interviewed

AU051800 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 3 Mar 84 P 6

[Article by 'Asim Ash'ab member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Palestine: "Differentiation in the Movement; What Is Going On in the PLO Following Its Departure From Beirut"]

[Text] **The present crisis of the PLO can be described as the gravest and most profound since the organization's founding in**

1964. The Palestinian revolution has always emerged from the past crises with its ranks regrouped, which was reflected in the PLO's unity. The present situation, however, is totally different, and the infighting jeopardizes the very existence of the PLO.

As everyone knows, the aim of the U.S.-supported Israeli aggression in the summer of 1982 was to crush the mutual cohesion of the individual elements making up the trilateral alliance of Syria, Palestinians, and Lebanese patriotic forces. The next objective was to settle accounts with each of the three elements separately, since — following the apostasy of Egypt — this united front had proved to be an effective and paramount striking force of the Arab liberation movement in the face of imperialist-Zionist onslaught.

Position of the Palestinian Bourgeoisie

Since the fall of West Beirut, Washington's tactics in the struggle against the Palestinian revolution have focused on internal disruption. The Reagan plan, which the United States presented immediately after the departure of Palestinian fighters from Beirut, has become the main instrument of this disruption. It can be said that among the Palestinian bourgeoisie and in particular in its upper classes, the blockade of West Beirut gave rise to feelings of hopelessness, to skepticism regarding the possibility of an independent Palestinian state ever being founded. These classes therefore showed readiness to endorse the Reagan plan. Some representatives of bourgeois Palestinian classes in the occupied territories began to proclaim the slogan "save what can be saved."

The Reagan plan, being based on the agreements of Camp David, which are an attempt to block any realistic path to the founding of an independent Palestinian state, is quite overtly opposed to any such idea. The basic result achieved by the Reagan plan as one of the most perfidious American political traps ever set in the Middle East is an apparent dichotomy in the position of the Palestinian bourgeoisie. On the one hand, it remained faithful to the revolutionary ideals of the national liberation movement, having an irreconcilable attitude toward the Israeli occupation; on the other, however, it assumed a conservative, almost reactionary position on the question of the founding of an independent Palestinian state.

This bourgeoisie is willing to show loyalty vis-a-vis Jordanian rulers. In other words, it wishes to return under their sovereignty.

Gist of the Reagan Plan

The following question arises in this context: Have these classes, due to this dichotomous position, once and for all assumed a position outside of the Palestinian patriotic camp? Our answer is no. It is necessary to make use of their energy in the struggle against occupation and therefore to use all leverage to prevent them from harming the cause as a whole with their unwillingness to set up an independent state.

The tragedy of these classes of the Palestinian bourgeoisie is their failure to understand the fundamental goal of the Reagan plan, which is to split Palestinian national unity. It is an attempt to crush and liquidate the Palestinian revolution once and for all, taking advantage of the immensely complicated conditions following the fall of West Beirut.

What, in fact, does the Reagan plan envisage? It sees the Jordanian king as a partner of the Israeli occupiers in administering occupied Palestinian territories and economic hegemony, prolonged existence of colonial settlements, and security in those areas as remaining exclusive Israeli perogatives.

The readiness to give up the right to an independent Palestinian state, the acceptance of solutions that do not provide for one, the renunciation of the principle that the PLO represents the movement, as well as the sanctioning of the Jordanian rulers' negotiating on behalf of the Palestinian people and the PLO — all this **means the loss of the attained historical moral-political gains and a return of the Palestinian cause to the situation prior to 1948 when the Palestinian people were tragically ousted and thus deprived of the right to self-determination and to setting up a state of their own as recognized by the resolution of the UN General Assembly of 29 November 1947**.

Negative Features Following the PLO's Departure From Beirut

These strata of the Palestinian bourgeosie, which after the PLO's departure from West Beirut showed an obvious tendency to collaborate in Palestinian affairs with American plans, began to exert growing pressure on the PLO leadership to make it accept their own viewpoints on a settlement.

Since the early stages of the developments that followed the events in Beirut, our party has been noticing many grave, negative features in the orientation and practical activities of the PLO leadership, features which have convinced us that the positions of the PLO leadership have changed.

The most momentous of these features have been the following:

1. — Attitude toward armed action as one of the forms of combat against Israeli occupation. Under the conditions established by the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, under a situation in which Israeli units have taken position on new territory, on terrain to which they are still unaccustomed; in which there is no shortage of weapons because for a number of years now they have been available in very Lebanese home; and in which masses of people can handle these weapons, the conditions are really very favorable for exhausting the Israeli occupiers so as to make them captives of their own occupation. The PLO leadership has displayed reluctance to make use of these favorable conditions for stepping up resistance against the Israeli occupiers. It has even displayed obvious signs of forgoing this method of combat.

2. — Attitude toward Palestinian Communists and the Communist Party of Palestine. The general policy of the PLO leadership has from the beginning been marked by an attempt to push out Palestinian Communists, to disrupt their position with the Palestinian popular masses, and to discriminate against them in various PLO institutions. However, it was only after Beirut that this policy became manifest in full strength and openess. At the same time, the PLO leadership has been trying to maintain friendly relations with fraternal communist parties in Arab countries and in the world to ensure for itself the support and assistance of these parties.

3. — **Attitude toward Syria.** No criticism and no reservations can justify the rupture with and hostility toward Syria engendered by the PLO leadership. This dubious attitude has contributed to shaking the Syrian-Palestinian alliance in the highly sensitive situation in which the entire region and the Palestinian cause in particular have found themselves.

About the Visit to Cairo

Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo and his meeting with the president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, which subscribes to the Camp David agreements and supports the Reagan plan, were qualitatively new steps on the path toward collaboration with American "solutions" and opened a wide scope for a series of actions restricting the PLO and its legality.

By tilting with finality to the side of the upper strata of the Palestinian bourgeoisie and by beginning to take over their views on how to proceed with the Palestinian cause, the PLO leadership has opened a path to changes in its Arab and international ties of alliance. What is involved on the Arab scale is not merely a reinforcement of relations with rightwing and reactionary regimes. To the extent to which the PLO leadership has been enhancing in the past few years its relations with the Arab regimes, it has been removing itself from contact with the broad popular Arab masses and their political organizations. This disturbance [naruseni] has by now reached such a degree that some PLO officials describe the visit to Cairo as breaking away from isolation, although everything is the other way around. Only the preservation and reinforcement of relations with the broad masses of Arab people provides a guarantee that it will be possible to force the Arab regimes to assume a more positive attitude toward the Palestinian cause.

Even before this, our party warned against the erroneous concentration of the PLO's entire attention on relations with Arab regimes to the detriment of relations with the broad masses of Palestinian and Arab people, including the question of ensuring support for and financing of the PLO.

Even in the early stage, in assessing the turn of events after Beirut, our party concluded that, to a greater extent then ever before, an extensive and profound differentiation would take place in the Palestinian camp, in political as well as in organizational terms, in the light of the specific difficulties arising for the Palestinian resistance movement after its departure from Lebanon, where it enjoyed a considerable degree of independence of action.

There is no need to note that this differentiation is takingplace in the middle of an Arab world which is also undergoing a differentiation and polarization of forces. It does so, first and foremost, **on a class basis and under the conditions of growing hegemony of the capitalist path of development in the Arab world.** The process of differentiation and polarization in the Arab camp, which — as shown above — is of a predominantly class nature, exerts a strong influence on the Palestinian camp, and, in view of the nature of the historical stage in which the Palestinian movement finds itself, exerts this influence even before conditions for a differentiation on a class basis have become fully mature in the Palestinian camp itself.

In other words: **If the Palestinian national bourgeoisie, especially its upper strata, show, even before the founding of an independent state, signs of exhaustion and the willingness to throw away the banner of national struggle, this is, to a considerable extent, due to the influence of the surrounding Arab world and its conflicts.**

Following the departure from Beirut, wavering political attitudes have become manifest in some small Palestinian organizations. This wavering reflects loss of independence and the magnetizing force of one pole or another on the Palestinian as well as the all-Arab scales. To the same extent, it also reflects the strength of the pressures to which the Palestinian camp has been exposed from the surrounding Arab world.

It has not been surprising in this context that an internal split has occurred in the Fatah movment, especially if we take into account its broad and heterogeneous structure as the largest organization of the Palestinian movement. That which has been going on, and continues to happen, in this movement is one of the forms of political differentiation in the Palestinian movement discussed previously. **If, at first, the fighting within Fatah assumed a bloody, violent character and subsequently spread beyond the framework of Fatah, affecting the entire movement, this is because this struggle concerns the center of Palestinian decisionmaking, which the Fatah leadership has been unjustly dominating for a long time.**

"The Main Threat to Revolution

The results of the political and organizational differentiation are by no means final. The Palestinian movement is still undergoing a concrete process of change. If the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the departure of the Palestinian resistance movement form Beirut in their consequences strrngthened the activity of the rightwing current in the Palestinian national liberation movement, a current which favors compromise, they also galvanized the activity of the extremist rejectionist current, although the events of the past few years, especially since the massacres of September 1970 in Jordan, have weakened and narrowed its political base among the Palestinian popular masses.

Following the departure from Beirut, the most striking self-expression of the rightwing current seeking compromise has been its pursuit of the illusion of an American solution, its hazardous bereaking up of national unity, and its squandering of the basic political gains achieved by the Palestinian people in long years of struggle. **In the present stage, this current constitutes the main internal danger for the Palestinian revolution.**

The extremist rejectionist current proclaims extremist slogans, is opposed to the principle of a political solution, and belittles the PLO and its institutions. This isolates in practice the cause of our people and deprives it of extensive sympathy and recognition on the international scale.

Position of the Communist Party of Palestine

The Communist Party of Palestine understands the magnitude of the danger threatening the PLO, its existence and unity, and the credibility of its position as a representative of the people of Palestine, a danger which thus jeopardizes the entire Palestinian national unity and the fate of the Palestinian cause as such. That is why our party will concentrate all its forces and efforts, in cooperation with all organizations, strata, and persons in the Palestinian camp, on responsible work for national salvation, so as to protect and maintain national unity on the basis of resolutions of the 16th session of the PNC and to carry out a democratic reform. We are fully aware of the fact that this is a very important task in a race with time, because every additional day of perpetuation of the crisis will make this task even more difficult and complicated.

Irrespective of the outcome of this dangerous and fateful crisis, our party will tirelessly continue its endeavors in facing up to imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary plans for liquidation. Our party will express its solidarity with every position oriented in the same direction.

PLO's Al-Wazir on Meetings of Joint Committee

JN061215 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 6 Mar 84 pp 1, 20

[Excerpts] Amman — The joint Palestinian-Jordanian committee for supporting the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in the occupied homeland ended the meetings of its current session yesterday and adopted many resolutions on the pressing economic and social requirements in the occupied homeland. In a statement to *AR-RA'Y*, Khalil al-Wazir [Abu Jihad] said that the session was an extension of the meetings to discuss issues that have been discussed during the previous two meetings. He added that the joint committee will postpone its meetings for 10 days to allow the Palestinian side to the committee to participate in the meetings of the Fatah Central Committee that will begin in Tunis within the next few days.

Al-Wazir added that the delegation that was formed the day before yesterday is expected to leave for Algiers. He said that the delegation comprises Khalil al-Wazir on the Palestinian side and Dr Jawad al-'Anani on the Jordanian side. The delegation will hold several meetings with Algerian officials to brief them on the true situation of the fund for bolstering steadfastness and the joint committee, and to explain the nature of the circumstances under the tyrant occupation, the recent actions of the joint committee, and its current and future plans; and to remind Algeria to pay its commitments. Al-Wazir said although the budget of the fund for bolstering steadfastness amounts to $100 million according to the Baghdad summit resolutions, some Arab states have not fulfilled their commitments, especially the Libyan Government which committed itself to paying $75 million.

Al-Wazir said that the joint committee will dispatch other delegations that have not yet been formed to visit a number of Arab states within the joint committee's framework to explain the nature of its current financial circumstances. Al-Wazir added that the objective of the joint committee's visit to Saudi Arabia that has completely fulfilled its commitments, is to put the officials there in the real picture and explain the committee's actions and the results of its recent talks.

Syrian Victory in Treaty Abrogation Questioned

JN061934 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1634 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Political analysis]

[Text] The Lebanese Cabinet's announcement on abrogating the 17 May agreement, which has not yet been implemented, certainly constitutes a heavy blow to the Zionist plan in Lebanon and to U.S. policy, which reaped the fruits of the Zionist invasion at the expense of the Lebanese people and their right to freedom and national independence. However, with the abrogation of the agreement, certain reports which call for cautiousness and apprehension have leaked out about the meeting Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil held a few days ago.

It has been strongly confirmed that the Syrian president agreed on the holding of Lebanese-Israeli talks in order to draw up special security arrangements that guarantee that the Palestinians will not infiltrate the northern border of the Zionist entity. This means that the Zionist security objectives that were made in order to invade Lebanon are being considered, with some reservation concerning the political aspect. This can be true if the security and political questions are separated.

We in the PLO consider the achievements of the Lebanese people under the leadership of their nationalist forces as achievements for us, and for our cause and landmarks on our long path of struggle against the Zionist enemy. We also consider all U.S. and Zionist setbacks, particularly in Beirut, to be the fruits of the Lebanese nationalist forces' struggle — these forces that are the natural ally of the Palestinian revolution. However, what makes us proud of the developments in Beirut makes us suspicious of what is taking place in southern Lebanon, particularly since there are certain irrefutable Syrian indications that the Syrian regime takes the Israeli security interests in southern Lebanon into its consideration. These indications could be confirmed if we recall this regime's obvious collaboration with Israel in invading a 45 km-wide area in Lebanon in 1982.

Damascus thinks that it has achieved an important media victory with the abrogation of the 17 May agreement. However, political observers who are not deceived by propoganda campaigns say that Damascus has succeeded in tearing up the document, but Israel has succeeded in entrenching the content of this document on the ground. The only losers in this hellish game are those who believe in the inevitability of pursuing struggle against the Israeli enemy on all fronts.

Possible Israeli Measures Against Amman Talks

JN052131 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1627 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Zionist entity normally adopts several measures in an attempt to encircle and foil any military or political step that the PLO takes either on the Arab or the international levels. These measures — such as escalating arbitrary measures or building settlements — are adopted either to influence the general situation inside the occupied homeland or to directly confront the step the PLO takes. Most recently, the first round of the Palestinian-Jordanian talks ended contrary to the Zionist enemy's desire . The PLO has thus once again proven that it is the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, and that what the enemy imagined concerning the weakness of the PLO's structure and the shaking of its representational capacity has not taken place. This means the Palestine question will continue to exist through the continued existence of its sole and legitimate representative. Therefore, what the enemy has imagined concerning the possibility of the PLO making political concessions with regard to either its representation or its political stand on the proposed plans to settle the Palestine question has not taken place. This is in addition to the fact that the PLO has maintained its political influence inside the occupied homeland — contrary to what the enemy expected concerning the possibility of creating a political vacuum in the occupied territory that would pave the way for settling the Palestine question in a manner that would conflict with the Palestinian people's rights.

In conclusion, the results of the Palestinian-Jordanian talks have dealt a blow to Zionist concepts and illusions. Accordingly, the Zionist authorities adopted a number of measures aimed at encircling the Palestinian move. These measures can be classified into two levels: 1. A general level, one of whose aspects constituted a call for increasing Jewish settlements in all Palestinian cities. This is aimed at expediting the alteration of the occupied homeland's demographic features. This aspect was obviously manfiested by the statement terrorist Ariel Sharon made to the heads of Jewish councils in Israeli settlements. In this statement, Sharon called for intensifying the building of settlements. 2. This aspect constituted an escalation of both official and unofficial Zionist terrorism and coercive measures agaisnt Palestinian citizens, the latest of which was the criminal attack on a bus carrying Palestinian workers in Ramallah.

The direct confrontation of the PLO's move to hold a dialogue with Jordan is represented in measures the highest level of the Zionist entity is discussing and preparing to adopt against the Palestinian figures who met with Brother Abu 'Ammar in Amman. The Israeli Cabinet is currently discussing these measures. This shows how seriously the Zionist entity is considering the Palestinian move. These measures are also an attempt by the Zionist authorites to cut off [radio went off the air for 25 seconds] Thus, we say that this is not the first time that either the Zionist enemy or other parties that plot against our revolution have tried to cut off contacts between the masses and their leadership. These attempts have always ended in a big failure. We do not believe that the new Zionist measures will yield better results than those yielded by previous attempts.

Resistance Operation in Sidon Reported

JN061747 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1616 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance men pursued their daring operations against the Zionist occupation forces in southern Lebanon. A group of the resistance men caused explosions at three Israeli occupation forces' positions in Sidon in southern Lebanon. Reports from there said that following the explosions an exchange of machine gun fire was heard as well as the roar of the occupation forces' tanks and armored vehicles heading to the municipality building in the city. No details on the results of these explosions have been received yet because of the siege these forces imposed on Sidon.

Baghdad PLO Radio Reports West Bank Demonstrations

JN061738 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1616 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Massive demonstrations were staged in various parts of the occupied West Bank in protest against the disgusting crime that the Zionist terrorist gangs perpetrated the day before yesterday against a civilian Palestinian bus that was carrying Palestinian workers from Ramallah to their workplaces. The attack wounded six Palestinian citizens. Reports said that the Palestinian citizens hurled stones at Israeli military vehicles, wounding a number of Zionist soldiers and breaking the windows of two Israeli vehicles on the streets of Ramallah. Following this clash, the Zionist occupation authorities reinforced their forces in the city and waged an extensive arrest campaign against the citizens. The Palestinian citizens also hurled stones at a Zionist military vehicle near Al-Jalazun Camp north of Ramallah. As a result, the Zionist soldiers fired their machine guns at the citizens.

New Palestinian Radio Station Heard Broadcasting

WA071401 [Editorial Report] A radio station broadcasting in Arabic and calling itself "the Voice of Palestine, the Voice of the Palestine Revolution, the Voice of National Unity" was first heard by FBIS at 1732 GMT on 5 March broadcasting in the Middle East on 1504 kHz. The location of the transmitter is unknown at this time. The radio carried commentaries criticizing the recent PLO-Jordanian talks, 'Arafat's leadership, and a commentary supporting the USSR position on deployment of U.S. missiles in Europe. These commentaries were interspersed with patriotic songs and programs carried by other Voice of Palestine radios.

A commentary broadcast at 1735 GMT on 5 March stated that in order to "defeat the attempts to save the imperialist schemes in Amman and other places, there must be further cohesion among the factions of the Arab liberation movement, and further alliances with the socialist states led by the USSR, which has proved to be a strong friend of the Arab nation and which played a great role in backing the Arab confrontation forces and realizing the recent gains in the Arab nation's interest." A commentary at 1745 GMT the same day accuses 'Arafat of basing their dialogue with Jordan on the Reagan plan; and of "renunciation of the path of armed struggle."

At 1800 GMT, the radio carried a talk on U.S.-Jordanian moves in the region and their connection with Israel. The talk said that the "reactionary axis includes Israel, the Mubarak regime, King Husayn's regime, Saddam Husayn, 'Arafat, and Moroccan King Hassan II."

The radio signed off the air at 1900 GMT with the following announcement: "Brother fighters, struggling masses of our people: Here we end our programs. We hope to met with you again tomorrow and every day at 1700 GMT. We renew our pledge to you that we will continue our struggle, through the honest word that expresses the courageous bullet, until Palestine, the whole of Palestine, is liberated." This was followed by the station's identification announcement as reported. The station was heard with very poor reception on 6 March, the station identification announcement being virtually the only monitorable portion.

BAHRAIN

Amir Leaves Manama for Saudi Arabia Visit

GF061156 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1100 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Manama, 6 Mar (WAKH) — Amir of Bahrain His Highness Shaykh ‘Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah today left Manama for Dhahran in Saudi Arabia at the invitation of his majesty King Fahd ibn ‘abd al-‘Aziz of Saudi Arabia. During his brief visit, the amir will hold talks on bilateral relations, current developments in the region and issues of common interest.

Amir Receives Arab League's Klibi 6 March

GF060948 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0620 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Manama, 6 Mar (WAKH) — Amir of Bahrain Shaykh ‘sa ibn Salman Al Khalifah today received Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi, who arrived in Manama yesterday. The meeting was attended by Foreign Affairs Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah. Following the meeting, Klibi made a statement to WAKH. He said that he reviewed with his highness the amir a number of Arab issues, particularly those dealing with the current developments in the Gulf, the Iraqi-Iranian war, the events in Lebanon and the Middle East issue, and other Arab and international issues. He pointed out that he discussed with the amir the preparations for convening the next Arab summit in Riyadh. He added that his highness the amir stressed the need to enhance joint Arab action in the interest of the Arab nation. The Arab League secretary general left Manama today for Doha within his current tour of the region.

Mauritanian Energy Minister Arrives for Visit

GF061600 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1420 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Manama, 6 Mar (WAKH) — Mr Mohamed Fadel Ould Dah, Mauritanian minister of water supply and energy, arrived in Manama from Doha this afternoon on a short visit to Bahrain. The Mauritanian minister is carrying a letter from Mauritanian President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala to Bahraini Amir Shaykh ‘isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah on the recent developments in the Arab maghreb and on bilateral relations. The Mauratanian minister's visit is part of his tour of a number of the region's states.

Mauritania President's Message

GF070906 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0750 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 7 Mar (WAKH) — Amir of Bahrain His Highness Shaykh ‘isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah has received a written message from Mauritanian President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala dealing with bilateral relations, means of bolstering them, and the current developments in the Arab maghreb region. The message was conveyed by Mauritanian Minister of Water Supply and Energy Mohamed Fadel Ould Dah.

AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ Views U.S. Policy in Gulf

GF070914 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0700 GMT 7 Mar 84

[From the press review]

[Excerpt] Manama, 7 Mar (WAKH) — The Bahraini newspaper *AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ* has criticized the U.S. policy toward the Iraqi-Iranian war. The paper said: Despite the fact that the United States is a superpower which has huge responsibilities in the world and whose interests are everywhere, it has adopted the role of a sly instigator who causes the war to flare up but claims to want it to beimmediately terminated. Commenting editorially, the paper said that the United States was not satisfied with watching the situation through its satellites and its spying planes — as it has done for the past 3 and 1/2 years — so it resorted to issuing statements that spur the sides on, taking revenge from each other and shedding blood. The United States pointed out that, as a superpower, it has various means through which that can end this war. It can impose an embargo to block supplies of weapons, it can bar countries affiliated with it from providing Iran or Iraq with weapons, and it can create an international consensus that supports any step taken to attain a noble goal such as ending the Gulf war.

Concluding, *AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ* asserted that the United States does not want to do any such thing. It wants this war to continue because the continuation of this achieves its desired interests. Moreover, this war consitutes attrition of an Arab people in terms of their men, funds, and energies to the point that eliminates these people from remaining a supporter of the Arab nation in its basic struggle against the Zionist enemy.

AKHBAR AL-KHAIJ on 17 May Agreement Annulment

GF061209 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0735 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 6 Mar (WAKH) — The Bahraini newspaper *AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ* has stressed that Lebanon has achieved the greatest victory for the Arab nation since the establishment of the Zionist entity by scrapping the 17 May agreement. The paper said that this paved the way for the Arab nation to enter a new stage in its historic struggle against the Zionist coercion. The paper said this step is the coronation of the struggle of the Lebanese, which indicates that despite their meager resources, the free political will of the Arab nation — no matter how small it is — is capable of achieveing a nonpareil victory.

KUWAIT

French Defense Minister Denies Military Accord

LD061427 Kuwait KUNA in English 1220 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Kuwait, March 6 Kuwait, March 6 (KUNA) — French Defense Minister Charles Hernu denied here Tuesday that he signed a military accord during talks with his Kuwaiti counterpart Shaykh Salim as-Sabah. He said in a press conference before departure from here that he has come to Kuwait to make sure that agreements concluded between the two countries last year were being implemented regularly and steadily. He elaborated that contracts signed in 1983 were being implemented as scheduled, namely the delivery of Mirage jetfighters, missiles and helicopter gunships in addition to flying radar systems.

The French defense minister told the press conference in Kuwait he was no arms dealer and has not come to Kuwait as one. He explained that his visit here was aimed at reviewing military cooperation between France and Kuwait and stressed that such cooperation cannot exist without friendship between the two sides and similarity of views.

Asked on France's reaction to the abrogation of the Israeli-Lebanese troops withdrawal agreement Monday, Hernu noted that the Lebanese Parliament had not endorsed the accord, "and we have to acept what happened (the abrogation) and what will consequently take place."

On the withdrawal of French troops from Beirut, the Minister said the Paris Government is not committed to the positions of other partners of the multinational force, the U.S., Britain and Italy that had already pulled out their contingents. The French troops withdrawal from Lebanon should be carried out in an honorable way and under conditions that would not affect the troops' morale, he said. The French withdrawal, he added, should be diplomatically coordinated as not to affect Lebanon's peace and stability.

Questioned if France plans to take part in mediation efforts to halt the Iran-Iraq war, Hernu said a peaceful settlement of the Gulf war should be the concern of the world community. He said he had discussed the raging war with H.H. the amir and deputy premier, Foreign and information minister Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad, Hernu did not elaborate. [as received]

He indicated that the Gulf countries should spearhead efforts to peacefully settle the war whose dangers would reach far beyond the boundaries of the warring nations to spill over into the Gulf region. He, however, noted that France can be active in this effect in the United Nations "But to a limited extent." Hernu recalled U.N. Resolution No. 540 proposed by France and supported by the Gulf countries, particularly Kuwait.

Asked on Iranian threats to block the Strait of Hormuz at the head of the Gulf, the French official said "It will not be as easy as some might have imagined... and I don't want to precipitate things to pass a judgement on them." He, however, emphasized that in the event of such a blockade, France will not act without consultations with the Gulf Countries.

Hernu affirmed his country's readiness to help equip and train the armed forces of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), adding that France is interested in, and is closely watching these fledgling forces.

Meanwhile, Kuwait's Defense Minister Sheikh Salim As-Sabah, after seeing Hernu off at the airport, described the visit of the French official as "very useful", saying the two sides discussed implementations of projects agreed upon during his visit to France last year. A special committee will discuss Kuwait's requirements of French weapons, Sheikh Salim said and noted that Hernu pledged to clear any obstacle in this regard. Political discussions between the two sides centered on the Lebanese crisis and the Iraq-Iran war "and we agreed that peace is the ultimate goal in the two volatile areas," Hernu said.

Two New Bombing Suspects Detained

GF061332 Doha QNA in Arabic 1217 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Kuwait, 6 Mar (QNA) — Press reports say here today that two other suspects were recently detained in connection with the explosions in Kuwait last December. The Kuwaiti newspaper *AL-ANBA'* says that one of the accused works as an electrical engineer at Ash-Shu'aybah industrial region. He is being interrogated on charges of providing the group which executed the plot with information on a number of important places in the region. The second suspect is being interrogated on charges of preparing the explosions. The paper adds that when the interrogation of both suspects is over they will be referred to the state security court where they will be tried in separate hearings from the ones already held on this case.

Foreign Minister Comments on Treaty Abrogation

LD061146 Kuwait KUNA in English 1115 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Kuwait, March 6 (KUNA) — Kuwait Tuesday welcomed the Lebanese Government's decision on Monday abrogating the May 17 troop withdrawal agreement with Israel. Deputy Premier, Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad told KUNA: "Kuwait, while welcoming the abrogation, wishes that the step would achieve the unity of Lebanese land and people and restore stability to that sisterly Arab country." Shaykh Sabah expressed hope that scrapping the agreement would end internal Lebanese conflicts so that the Lebanese would concentrate to rebuild their country and to restore Lebanon's normal role within the Arab family. The Kuwaiti chief diplomat appealed to the Lebanese to consider that step as an impetus to bypass differences and painful past experiences and work seriously for the interest of the one and strong Lebanon.

AL-WATAN on U.S. Third Party Warning to Iran

GF062000 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 4 Mar 84 P 1

[Text] *AL-WATAN* has learned from informed diplomatic sources that the United States warned Iran against the repercussions of any attack that would impede navigation through the Strait of Hormuz. The warning was made through a country that is friendly to both Iran and the United States. The sources say that Iran's reply to the warning was that the Strait of Hormuz does not concern it at present, especially since Khark Island has not yet been affected directly. The sources disclosed that the Iranian deputy defense minister who visited Damascus last week left it with the impression that Syria will not approve any development leading to crossing the Iraqi borders and that it rejects any action that may impede navigation through the Strait of Hormuz.

On another level, the same sources said that UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan's visit to Saudi Arabia was aimed at discussing the situation in the Gulf in light of the recent escalation in the Iraqi-Iranian war. These sources expect that Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan will make a visit to Damascus during the coming weeks in order to discuss the possibility of starting a new mediation effort to end the war. These sources did not exclude the possibility that Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, who is currently on an Arab tour, will call for an emergency Arab foreign ministers conference especially after he was informed by Iraq of an expected Iranian onslaught against the northern sector.

Commenting on the Syrian and Libyan silence regarding the war developments, the sources say that both countries are closely observing the situation and may issue a joint announcement on it in the next few days.

Dailies View Abrogation of Lebanon Agreement

LD061224 Kuwait KUNA in English 1007 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Kuwait, March 6 (KUNA) — Four of Kuwait's five Arabic dailies led Tuesday with editorial columns welcoming Monday's abrogation of the May 17 Lebanese-Israeli accord as a turning point in the region and analyzing its consequences. *AL-WATAN* said that the most important aspect of the abrogation was that it signalled the downfall of Israel's "logic" of first launching an aggression and then forcing an "agreement" out of it. Of great significance, the paper said, was the blow dealt to Israeli and American interests in Lebanon. "But, the most important aspect (of the abrogation) is its effect on the Arab-Israeli conflict. Here it becomes clear that the scenario drawn up by Israel for its relations with Arab countries has sufferred its first ever reversal," *AL-WATAN* said.

"This scenario has been based on the logic of 'strike, then agree'. It worked with Egypt, and was on the verge of working in Lebanon. But the chain has now been broken, and with it, Israel's dream of completing the scenario with Jordan and Syria," it continued. "It is true that Israeli forces continue to occupy Lebanon, and that Lebanon is considering another agreement for protecting Israel from attacks from the south (of Lebanon)...but it is also true that the myth that whatever Israel says is accepted and executed, has been destroyed", the paper stressed.

AL-WATAN concluded with the assertion that the two big questions now were what effect the abrogation would have on Egypt's Camp David accords with Israel, and to what extent various Arab powers could find an alternative to get Israel out of Lebanon. "Putting the spoke in the Israeli wheel should be the beginning, rather than the end of the process", the paper said.

AL-QABAS, for its part, focussed on the possible consequences of the abrogation of the Camp David accords. The paper pointed out that the two major beneficiaries of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, Israel and the U.S., had taken the news of its abrogation relatively lightly, "as if they no longer cared whether it was cancelled or persisted." This makes doubly worrying that there was one Arab voice which continued to counsel ahderence to the agreement. "The voice, unfortunately, is that of the Egyptian Government whose foreign minister advised Lebanon to hold on to the accords as a means of ridding itself of foreign occupation", *AL-QABAS* said.

The paper said that this stance meant that "the Egyptian authorities feel no qualms about seeing the Zionization of Lebanon, or the swallowing up by Israel of its independence, economic and national culture, or its co-option into an illegal alliance with the most dangerous enemy of the Arabs and of Egypt". The statement was surprising coming at a time when the Egyptian government as a whole appears to be studiously distancing itself from Camp David, the paper said, and was an indication that "a Zionized American current left over from the as-Sadat era was obstructing the path of the Egyptian state".

AL-QABAS said that for all practical purposes, the May 17 agreement was torn up by Lebanon's resistance righters, who "sealed shut the doors of the Camp David club". The paper expressed confidence that Egypt, "the only remaining prisoner of the club, will soon find a way of terminating its lonely membership". But, *AL-QABAS* cautioned, "no one must heed the advice of the Egyptian foreign minister, who counsels the freedom to shackle their necks and arms".

AL ANBA' said that the abrogation represented the defeat of one principle in Middle Eastern politics at the hands of another. The cancellation of the agreement "is a practical expression of a crushing defeat for the Israeli principle of invasion and occupation, followed by withdrawal made conditional on recognition and a surrender pact", the paper said. "The new principle is one imposed by the patriotic forces in Lebanon, with help from Damascus, which is an ominous development for Israel because it raises the prospect of Egypt taking a similar step, which would be a virtual death certificate for the Israeli plan based on imposing surrender by force", *AL-ANBA'* commented.

The "new principle", the paper said, was also a threat to the Reagan plan, "which demands surrender terms before even entering the negotiating room". Despite the blow which the abrogation dealt to American and Israeli policy, the paper said that the Israelis had their hands full with the Lebanese resistance in South Lebanon, and would not resort to launching a war against Syria to avenge the abrogation. But the most important lesson to be learnt, according to *AL-ANBA'*, is that "challenging Israel is not always a losing game, and the Arabs can, when they decide, deal painful blows to the Israeli enemy".

AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM described the abrogation as a "big victory", but said that nevertheless formidable problems lay ahead for Lebanon. The paper said it would be reasonable to ask what value the abrogation had when Israeli troops continued to occupy south Lebanon. "But south Lebanon, however long the Israelis remain there, will be, as it already is, the starting point of the Arab national tide which will liberate all Arab land occupied by Israel", *AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM* said.

Israel committed an act of "gross stupidity" if it thought that Lebanon was the weakest link in the Arab chain or that Syria would allow a separate agreement to be signed with the Israelis. The paper predicted that Washington and Tel Aviv's attention would now be focussed on dealing a crushing blow to Damascus as a necessary prerequisite for their "grand design" of imposing their hegeomony over the region. Despite the difficulties ahead and the present troubles facing the Arab world, the daily concluded, "it has to be said, given the realities of the equation, that the turning point has been reached, and that the American-Israeli-Phalangist alliance would not have surrendered if it had had any other choice".

PDRY

Soviet Trade Delegation Departs 6 March

GF061414 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The Soviet trade delegation led by Cojrade Rudolf Makarov, deputy Soviet foreign trade minister, left Aden this morning, after a several days' visit to our country. In a predeparture statement to ANA, Comrade Makarov said that the cooperation protocol for trade exchange which was signed is a new phase in strengthening bilateral relations. He said his visit was successful and serves the good relations between the Soviet Union and the PDRY. The Soviet delegation was seen off at the airport by the deputy minister of trade and supply; the Soviet ambassador in Aden; and a number of officials at the trade and supply ministry.

QATAR

Arab League's Klibi Arrives in Doha 6 Mar

GF060950 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0735 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Doha, 6 Mar (WAKH) — Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi arrived today in Doha from Manama today on a brief visit to Qatar within his current tour of the Arab countries.

Amir Receives Chadli Klibi

GF061207 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Doha, 6 Mar (WAKH) — Amir of Qatar His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani today received Arab League Secretary General Chadli Klibi. QNA reported that during the meeting they reviewed the current developments in the Arab and international arenas in general and the developments of the Middle East crisis in particular. They also discussed means of enhancing joint Arab action in order to confront the grave challenges that face the Arab nation. QNA added that the Arab League secretary general apprised the amir of Qatar on the results attained so far during his current tour of the Arab countries.

Mauritanian Energy Minister Arrives in Doha

GF061216 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0755 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Doha, 6 Mar (WAKH) — Mr Mohamed Fadel Ould Dah, Mauritanian minister of water supply and energy, arrived in Doha from Abu Dhabi this morning. The Mauritanian minister's visit is part of his trip to a number of countries in the region, during which he will deliver letters on bilateral relations to their leaders from the Mauritanian president.

Mauritanian Minister Departs

GF061416 Doha QNA in Arabic 1334 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Doha, 6 Mar (QNA) — Mr Mohamed Fadel Ould Dah, Mauritanian minister of water supply and energy, left Doha for Manama this afternoon following a brief visit to Qatar. During his visit, the Mauritanian minister delivered a message to Qatari Amir Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Tahni from Mauritanian President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala on developments in the region of the Arab Magreb and on bilateral relations. The Mauritanian minister's visit is part of his current tour of a number of the region's states.

SAUDI ARABIA

French Defense Minister Arrives 6 March

LD061432 Riyadh SPA in English 1301 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Dhahran, March 6, SPA — French Defence Minister Charles Hernu arrived here today on a visit to the Kingdom. He was greeted by Saudi Second Deputy Premier and Defence and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and a number of officials.

French Defense Minister Departs

LD061618 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1545 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Excerpt] Dhahran, 6 Mar (SPA) — The French Minister of defense, Charles Hernu, and the accompanying delegation left Dhahran for home this afternoon after a brief few-hours visit to the kingdom.

King Fahd Holds Talks with Bahraini Amir

GF061512 Jidda Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz met with His Highness Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah this afternoon. The meeting was attended on the Saudi side by Prince Mish'al ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz; Prince Mut'ib ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of public works and housing; Prince Nawaf ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; and on the Bahraini side by Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah al Khalifah, interior minister; and Shaykh 'Ali Ibn Khalifah ibn Salman al Khalifah, undersecretary of the interior ministry.

King Fahd Meets Bahraini Delegation

LD061133 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1100 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Dhahran, 6 Mar (SPA) — The Amir of Bahrain, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah arrived at the Dhahran International Airport this afternoon. King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz was at the head of those who came to the airport to welcome the Bahraini amir. The Bahraini amir is accompanied by Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman al Khalifah; Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah; Minister of the Interior Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah al Khalifah;

Minister of Information Tariq al-Mu'ayyad; Education Minister 'Ali Fakhru and Chief of the Amir Office (Yusuf ad-Dusari).

Ministers Receive French Foreign Trade Minister
LD061509 Riyadh SPA in English 1254 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Riyadh, March 6, SPA — French Foreign Trade and Tourism Minister Mrs Edith Cresson discussed with Commerce Minister Sulayman as-Salim trade cooperation between the Kingdom and France. The French minister expressed her country readiness to cooperate with the Kingdom in the field of joint ventures and the transfer of French technology to the kingdom. She also welcomed cooperation between the two countries in the field of standards and specifications and explained to her Saudi counterpart the French subsidies system and its effects on the Saudi exports to France in future.

Meanwhile Salim expressed the Kingdom's growing concern over maintaining developed commercial relations with France and exchange of visits between businessmen from each country. The Saudi minister told his French counterpart of the necessity of giving a chance to Saudi petrochemical industries in the French market.

The meeting was attended by commerce undersecretary 'abd ar-Rakman Az-Zamil and French ambassador to the Kingdom. After the meeting as-Salim hosted a luncheon in honour of is French guest. Later Mrs Cresson met with Finance and National Economy Minister Muhammad Aba al-Khayl and reviewed with him joint cooperation between their two countries in the economic and commercial fields.

Prince Sultan on Hernu Visit, Lebanon, Iran-Iraq
LD062051 Riyadh SPA in English 1905 gmt 6 mar 84

[Text] Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, March 6, SPA — King Fahd's current visit to the eastern province to inspect development ventures undertaken by different ministries reflects the strong ties between the Saudi people and their leader, Second Deputy Premier and Defence and Aviation Minister Prince Sultan Ibn 'abd al-'Aziz was quoted as saying. In a statement given to SPA and Riyadh radio on the occasion of the monarch's current tour in the region, Prince Sultan said the trip "is a good example for officials to follow up implementation of projects on the spot." King Fahd will continue making similar visits to all parts of the Kingdom to ensure the welfare and progress of his people, Prince Sultan said.

Prince Sultan described the current visit of French Defence Minister Charles Hernu to the Kingdom as a friendly trip." Hernu will hold talks with Saudi officials on means to enhance Franco-Saudi cooperation as well as questions of mutual concern, Prince Sultan said.

He described Lebanon's decision to scrap its May 17 agreement with Israel on troops withdrawal from the country as a matter of concern to Lebanon itself. Asked if West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl will discuss any issues on supplying Saudi Arabia with German weapons during his current visit to Washington, Prince Sultan said the U.S. "Is not the Kingdom's agent to discuss such matters and Bonn is not free to discuss issues relating to the Kingdom with any other side."

On the developments of the Iran-Iraq war and their impact on navigation in the Arab Gulf, Prince Sultan said the danger of hostilities was existing but reason would ultimately prevail to avoid the creation of any international dangers.

UAE

Somalia Foreign Minister Meets Counterpart
GF061302 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Foreign Minister Rashid 'Abdallah met today with Mr Abdurahman Jama Barre, Somali foreign minister who is currently visiting the country. During the meeting they discussed the latest developments in the Arab arena especially the Middle East, the developments in the Iraqi-Iranian war, the situation in the African horn and bilateral relations especially in the economic field.

Mauritanian Energy Minister Leaves Abu Dhabi
GF061048 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0740 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 Mar (WAKH) — Mr Mohamed Fadel Ould Dah, Mauritanian minister of water supply and energy, left Abu Dhabi for Doha this morning after a 2-day visit to UAE as part of his trip to a number of countries in the region. During his visit, the Mauritanian minister delivered a letter from Mauritanian President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala to UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn SUltan Al Nuhayyan dealing with the recent developments in the Arab Maghreb, bilateral relations, and means of strengthening them.

uf subsectYAR

President Receives U.S. Ambassador 6 March
GF061900 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic, commander in chief of the armed forces and secretary general of the General People's Congress, received in his office at the presidency at noon today U.S. ambassador to San'a' Mr David Eugene Zweifel and discussed bilateral relations with him.

DFLP Leader Hawatimah Arrives 6 March
GF061422 Doha QNA in Arabic 1306 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] San'a', 6 Mar (QNA) — DFLP Secretary General Mr Nayif Hawatimah arrived here today on a visit to the YAR that will last several days. Upon his arrival, Mr Hawatimah stated that he will discuss with the officials in San'a' the developments witnessed by the Palestinian arena in particular and by the Arab arena in general.

Meets President

GF062020 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1945 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] San'a', 6 Mar (WAKH) — Col 'ali 'Abdallah Salih, YAR president, met this evening in San'a' with DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah who is currently visiting San'a'. San'a' Radio said that a general discussion of the problems and situation in the Arab arena in general and developments in the Palestinian arena in particular took place in the meeting. The meeting also discussed the escalating struggle by the Palestinian people inside the occupied Arab territories against the Zionist occupation in addition to relations between the YAR and the Palestinian revolution.

The radio said that President 'ali 'A dallah Salih and Mr Nayif Hawatimah expressed, during the meeting, their satisfaction with the step that was adopted by the Lebanese Government and which involved abrogating the 17 May agreement. They stressed that this step will enable the Lebanese people to establish new relations in order to bolster their national unity and affirm their sovereignty on their land and their Arab afiliation.

'Ali Interviewed on Arab, African Issues

NC070854 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0825 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, expressed his hope that Iraq and Iran will agree not to strike at civilian targets deep in their countries. He pointed out that it is possible to reach a semi-agreement in principle to ease the intensity of the military conflict between them.

In a statement in today's issue of the Cairo magazine *AKHIR SA'AH*, 'Ali urged the Middle East to solve its problems by itself. In this regard, he referred to President Husni Mubarak's recent statement that 100 percent of the cards for a solution are in the hands of the Arab countries alone.

Touching on the Palestinian and Lebanese issues, 'Ali said they are closely linked and, consequently, it is inadmissible to solve one at the expense of the other. The efforts to find a settlement and a solution must cover both issues. He affirmed that the Lebanese issue can be solved only through the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon, beginning with the Israeli forces. Following this withdrawal, national reconciliation can be concluded.

Speaking about African issues, 'Ali stressed that the Chadian problem concerns Egypt and Sudan as well as the OAU. He affirmed that Egypt rejects the partition of Chad and foreign aggression against any African country. He said Egypt's stand on this problem is clear: the need for the withdrawal of foreign forces from this country and for preserving its national sovereignty and reconciliation.

Concluding, 'Ali emphasized that Arab solidarity benefits the Arab issues that have not been solved, adding that Arab fragmentation is one of the reasons for failure to solve the area's issues.

Abrogation of 17 May Agreement

NC061359 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said the circumstances that surrounded the signing of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement and the political realities in Lebanon gave the agreement a special nature. In a statement today, 'Ali said: We have noticed what was mentioned in the Lebanese cabinet's statement yesterday to the effect that the Lebanese Government is interested in security arrangements in southern Lebanon. I believe this responds to the demands of all parties.

Replying to a question, 'Ali affirmed that what is important now is concentrating on the achievement of security and stability, the consolidation of Lebanon's independence and sovereignty on all its territory, the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon, and the preservation of Lebanese national interests.

'Ali Discusses Relations With Somalia's Samantar

NC061722 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Talks were held at the Foreign Ministry today between Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Lieutenant General Mohamed Ali Samantar, Somali first vice president and defense minister, who is now visiting Cairo. The talks were attended by the Egyptian and Somali economy ministers.

The radio correspondent has learned that the talks dealt with bolstering bilateral relations and political and economic issues. A review was also made of the situation in the Middle East and in the Horn of Africa.

Samantar Received by Mubarak

NC071124 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning received Lieutenant General Mohammed Ali Samantar, Somali vice president and defense minister, accompanied by Minister of Presidential Affairs [title as received](Musa Rably Jut). Attending the meeting was Sudanese Ambassador Hussein Hasan.

The Somali vice president is currently visiting Egypt for talks aimed at boosting bilateral relations.

Lebanon's Al-Jumayyil Telephones Mubarak

NC071045 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1022 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA) — Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil telephoned President Muhammad Husni Mubarak at noon today. Al-Jumayyil briefed Mubarak on the latest developments in the situation in Lebanon.

Media Comment of Abrogation of 17 Mar Agreement

AL-AKHBAR Editorial

NC061132 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA) — *AL-AKHBAR* says the abrogation of the Lebanese-Israeli accord would create a new situation in the Middle East which would give emphasis to Syria's role in the area. The new situation, *AL-AKHBAR* adds, may contribute toward preparing a suitable atmosphere for stability and Arab effectiveness.

In its editorial today, the paper says the new situation makes it incumbent for Syria to play its role in the Middle East through a peace strategy based on conducting a dialogue with Lebanon, Jordan, the PLO, and Egypt for the sake of working out a radical solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict. An Arab role will be needed under the circumstances for the sake of attaining Arab solidarity.

The paper warns that the Arab area could be devastated by disintegration much worse than that it had suffered in the past should Syria insist on imposing conditions on its Arab neighbors and the PLO in the quest for a permanent peace and for the restoration of the Palestinians' legitimate rights — rights being backed by all the Arab countries, led by Egypt.

AL-AKHBAR stresses the need for a comprehensive Arab coordination, which is a primary condition for achieving the supreme Arab interest, represented by regaining rights and safeguarding national interests. The paper calls for utilizing all resources to achieve a comprehensive Arab strategy for peace that would save our great homeland from its pains and fragmentation.

Radio on 'Step Toward Unity'

NC061450 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Ahmad Sha'ban commentary: "The Abrogation of the Lebanese-Israeli Agreement Is a Step Toward Lebanese Unity"]

[Text] We should not view the abrogation of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement as a victory for any particular Lebanese faction, nor should anyone interpret it as a victory for any outside party. We must view the abrogation as a Lebanese internal affair that could constitute a step toward Lebanese unity, leading to a cessation of fighting among brothers and paving the way for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanese territory.

Nearly 10 months after the Lebanese-Israeli agreement was announced, the Lebanese Government yesterday declared the abrogation of the agreement, regarding it as never having existed. Without delving deep into Lebanese constitutional affairs and into the executive measures taken to approve the agreement, we should point out that since the agreement was announced, a large section of the Lebanese people had been emphasizing their opposition to it. We must also point out that Israel, the second party to the agreement, did not adhere to the agreement's provisions when it decided to redeploy its forces in Lebanon and when it withdrew its forces from Beirut and redeployed them in southern Lebanon. This prompted the Lebanese Government to freeze the agreement.

As Lebanon froze the agreement and failed to ratify it constitutionally, as opposition to the agreement mounted inside Lebanon, and as a heated debate on it took place at the first National Reconciliation Conference in Geneva, contacts were made among the Lebanese and various Arab parties mediated between the warring factions. Contacts were also made with the parties having an influence over certain Lebanese forces. All these efforts resulted in the Lebanese Government's declaration of the agreement's abrogation.

While following up this matter, we say that we have always been, and still are, opposed to any outside interference in the internal affairs of any country, that we approve of anything any people agree upon, and that we support the legitimate authority of any country. On this basis, we believe that anything that is acceptable to the Lebanese people is the best choice, because the issue is simply and solely theirs and they alone are capable of containing it and overcoming its negative aspects. Within this context, we believe that this step should be followed by other urgent steps, some of which we can sum up in three points:

1. Convening the second National Reconciliation Conference in Geneva as soon as possible. We must not lose time so as not to provide an opportunity for new foreign intervention. All the Lebanese must rally around this view and hold a discussion to reach solutions to other problems.

2. Working seriously to find an alternative to this agreement in order to achieve the withdrawal of the Israeli forces and to end all forms of foreign presence on Lebanese territory.

3. Building bridges of confidence among the Lebanese. Within this context, a proposal can be made to form committees to discuss the possibility of introducing constitutional amendments that are demanded by certain Lebanon sects so as to give them rights commensurate with their population.

A meeting among brothers in an atmosphere of mutual confidence and faith in the unity and the preservation of the homeland constitutes an important step toward the restoration of national unity among the Lebanese, provides the best way for ending foreign presence on Lebanese territory, and restores Lebanon as an oasis of security, peace, love, and fraternity as it had always been.

AL-JUMHURIYAH Editorial

NC070825 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0520 GMT 7 Mar 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Commenting on Lebanon's decision to abrogate the 17 May agreement with Israel, *AL-JUMHURIYAH* says that before Lebanon announced the abrogation of this agreement, it had lost all justifications of survival and continuity. The goal of the agreement in the first place was to guarantee the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon. Approximately 1 year has passed since its signing, but the invading Israeli forces have not withdrawn. Instead, they have stabilized their presence in southern Lebanon in what seems like permanent occupation. The Syrian forces never recognized the agreement nor did they agree to withdraw according to its conditions.

The decision to abrogate the agreement, whatever its importance is, cannot be the end of the road regarding the Lebanese crisis; rather, it has become a starting point toward solving this crisis.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says this clearly means that the decision to abrogate the Lebanese-Israeli agreement is the beginning and not the end.

Italy's Andreotti in Cairo for Talks

NC062136 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2053 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA) — Julio Andreotti, the Italian foreign minister, arrived this evening in Cairo for a 3-day official visit to Egypt during which he will head the Italian side to the meetings of the Egyptian-Italian Joint Committee. Mr Andreotti was met at the airport by Kamal Hasan ‘Ali, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

In an arrival statement, the Italian foreign minister said that the purpose of the visit is to hold talks with Kamal Hasan ‘Ali, the deputy prime minister and foreign minister. These talks will touch on bilateral relations and aspects of cooperation between the two countries, particularly during this important phase through which the Arab world is passing.

Kamal Hasan ‘Ali stated that, from the political perspective, the talks will deal with all the issues existing in the area and the major role that Italy is performing in the area to achieve peace and to buttress stability. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister said: We welcome the role which Italy played in the Egyptian-Israeli treaty through Italy's participation in the Sinai Multinational Force. Furthermore, Italy has recently agreed to renew the mandate of the force for another term.

Kamal Hasan ‘Ali noted the framework in which these meetings are held, that is, through the Egyptian-Italian joint committee which convenes once a year in Rome or Cairo. ‘Ali said that the last meeting convened in December in Rome. It has also been agreed to convene the coming meeting in March to discuss all bilateral matters, both economic aspects, because there is a large volume of trade exchange between Egypt and Italy, or any other aspect. The discussion will also touch on the cooperation between the two countries.

Received by Mubarak

NC071000 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0837 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 7 Mar (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received in Al-‘Urubah Palace this morning Italian Foreign Minister Julio Andreotti, who arrived in Cairo yesterday. Kamal Hasan ‘Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Italian ambassador to Cairo Elio Giuffrida attended the meeting.

Yugoslav Delegation Arrives for Economic Talks

NC062259 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2245 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 6 Mar (MENA) — A Yugoslav economic delegation headed by Dr Rikard Stajner, member of the Federal Executive Council and official in charge of economic cooperation with the developing states, tonight arrived in Cairo for a visit lasting several days. During the visit, the delegation is scheduled to hold discussions with Dr Mustafa as-Sa‘id, minister of economy and foreign trade, on cooperation between Egypt and Yugoslavia. The delegation will also attend the opening of the Cairo International Fair.

The delegation was received at the airport by (Ahmad Raja‘i), Economy Ministry under secretary, and by the staffers of the Yugoslav Embassy in Cairo.

Sudanese Parliamentary Delegation Arrives 5 Mar

NC052155 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2125 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, 5 Mar (MENA) — A Sudanese parliamentary delegation led by Dr Ibrahim ‘Ubaydallah, deputy speaker of the Sudanese People's Assembly, arrived in Cairo from Khartoum tonight on a 5-day visit to Egypt. The delegation is to take part in the meetings of the Nile Valley Parliament's financial, economic, and planning committee, which will be held during the next 3 days in Cairo. Dr ‘Ubaydallah said the committee will discuss several issues referred to it by the Higher Integration Council, as well as the budget items, in the light of the recent meeting of the Nile Valley Parliament last May. The delegation is scheduled to meet Dr Kamil Laylah, speaker of the Egyptian People's Assembly.

EC's Thorn Leaves Cairo After 3-day Visit

NC061411 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1332 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Cairo, March 6 (MENA) — Gaston Thorn, chairman of the EC Commission, left here this afternoon after a 3-day visit during which he met with President Husni Mubarak. Thorn also conferred with a number of Egyptian officials on economic and trade cooperation between the EC and Egypt as well as the EC member-states' contribution to projects of the 5-year development plan. He was seen off by the minister of state for foreign affairs, Dr Butrus Ghali.

Isma‘il Fahmi Joins New Wafd Party

PM061709 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Mar 84 p 1

[*ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* Cairo bureau report: "Isma‘il Fahmi in Charge of Foreign Relations in New Wafd Party"]

[Text] The higher authority of the New Wafd Party has appointed former Egyptian Foreign Minister Isma‘il Fahmi in charge of foreign relations in the party.

This came after Mr Fahmi had finally joined the party. He is now expected to participate in the work of the committee for amending the party program, particularly with regard to political and foreign affairs.

As part of the movement to join the New Wafd Party, Sa‘id ‘Abd al-Khaliq, Socialist Labor Party member and managing editor of *AL-AHRAR*, the party's organ, has joined the editorial staff of the newspaper *AL-WAFD*, whose chief editor is Mustafa Shardi.

Thus it appears that the Socialist Labor Party has suffered most among the Egyptian parties whose ranks have been disrupted since the reemergence of the Wafd Party.

President Challenges Charges on 'Poison Gas'

JN071015 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2105 GMT 6 Mar 84

[President Saddam Husayn's address during his meeting on 6 March with the delegates attending the 12th Arab Labor Conference in Baghdad —recorded]

[Text] I welcome you among your brothers and in your country. We are very pleased to meet with this righteous group of Arabs as the representatives of their governments and the workers and employers unions in their countries. When we meet in such circumstances, we must speak about the affairs that concern us [words indistinct]. Whenever the Arabs meet or hold a conference, they discuss their points of strength and weakness. Therefore, it is appropriate to ask: Where does our strength lie? By this strength, I also mean our moral and material well-being.

Following the recent battles, especially the last battle, we met at the General Command, and I addressed this question to myself and my brothers: Why did we triumph in the recent battles? This has been the constant question since the beginning of the war. After our triumph in every battle, we asked ourselves why we triumphed. This is not because we did not know right from the beginning whether we would triumph or not and the bases and prerequisites of the triumph, but because we wanted to remind ourselves of what we must always remember; namely, our points of strength, and also our points of weakness which are a gain for the enemy. For the enemy will also ask himself why he was defeated in these battles. He is bound to increase his strength so as to be able to confront us in subsequent battles. If we become conceited and are blinded and intoxicated by any victory over the enemy, then the enemy is bound to triumph over us in a subsequent battle.

This is why we always ask ourselves the question: Why did we triumph? In other words, we keep inquiring about the points of strength on our side and the points of weakness on the side of the enemy so we can exploit them and turn them into points of strength in our favor. This constant question enables us to seek additional points of strength, both moral and material.

I do not want here to also pick up my pickaxe and attack the points of weakness here in Iraq or elsewhere. For I am sure that some of our brothers are already undertaking this task, prompted by an honest motive, which is to earnestly review our present situation. Therefore, let us confine ourselves to the battle, which is also yours and not just ours. Notwithstanding everything else, had the Iraqis not used the history of the Arab as a basis in this confrontation, with its morals and principles, they would not have fought the way they did.

Some time ago, and in their psychological warfare against Iraq, Iranian leaders at all levels told their peoples and the world that this battle would be decisive. When they speak about a decisive battle, they mean that they will invade Iraq and turn this country into an Islamic republic in the way they understand things. But we in Iraq say that what they want is to annex Iraq to Persia. This has always been their line whenever they wanted to persianize the Arab nation. The Iranian Armies that invaded the Arab homeland hundreds of years ago raised the banner of Islam. But wherever they set foot in the Arab homeland, they turned those areas into parts of Persia. History is full of examples.

It is obvious that the Iranian officials have done all they could to prepare their people and army to confront Iraq and triumph over it. They apparently were carried away by their numerical superiority. What if we told them: O brothers do not make it a decisive battle. We are your brothers. Do not attack us. O United Nations, O Security Council, O big powers, O brothers everywhere, try to prevail on Iran so it will not make this battle a decisive one. Had we said such words, our people would have been demoralized and the Army would have been defeated in the battlefield. The Iraqi people are ready for any sacrifice as they have proved on all previous occasions. Therefore, responsibility demanded that we say: We defy you to make it a decisive battle. Let it be a decisive battle.

As we said, the bases were correct and the prerequisites were correct as was the case in all previous battles in which your Iraqi brothers triumphed [words indistinct]. Did we import our points of strength? The answer is: No, but we discovered these points of strength in ourselves and we improved on them. Perhaps not everyone of you is aware of the complicated situations in which the Iraqis fought. Those looking at the war from outside, may think this is a normal situation — an independent people confronting a foreign power. Indeed, this is the truth of the matter in its substance and also in its results now. But matters must not be viewed so simply. The Iraqi people have been the target of two influential neighboring states for a long period of time under the guise of religion; first the Turks and then the Iranians.

In 1968, I visited the Karbala Governorate. Karbala is an Iraqi city. While passing through the local market there, I discovered that the shopkeeper spoke Persian and that some of hsi clients answered in Persian. The clients were being courteous and the shopkeeper, a Persian, was forcing the Iraqis to speak a foreign language. This was in 1968 before the revolution. The Iranians were active under the shah exactly as they are doing now. There is no difference except in appearance. The shah did not wear a turban, but the present rulers in Iran wear the turban, and this is the difference between them and the shah of Iran. There are other differences, of course. The shah was working with all his strength to be influential in Iraq, even if those ruling in Iraq were Iraqis. He was backed in his ambition by outside powers, societies, and other quarters.

As for their ambitions in the Gulf area, most of you know what they are. You know the islands which were seized by the shah of Iran; the Greater Tumb, the Lesser Tumb, and Abu Musa. A semi-war then took place between us and Iran. The Iranians fought us through the suspect reactionary group which was represented by the Mustafa Barzani in northern Iraq. On our side, the war was fought by the Iraqis — people and Army. The fighting continued for one whole year until Algeria graciously mediated and settled the dispute in March 1975. The fighting continued for 1 year and our Army casualties numbered 16,000. They tried and are still trying to fake everything — history and culture — whenever the national leadershipin Iraq is not alert. They try to fake everything that is basic to the moral well-being of the Iraqis and to the strengthening of their ties with the Arabs.

The shah went and Khomeyni came. In order to remind you of certain things, which you may have forgotten or are not particularly aware of in view of your remoteness, and this is natural, I will cite a few examples of what Khomeyni used to do before the war so you can have an idea of his arrogance toward his Arab neighbors. Other Arab neighbors of Khomeyni know all the details, but the time has not yet come to reveal all these details. We sent a congratulatory cable on the establishment of the Islamic Republic. We said: In the name of the president of Iraq, we congratulate you, Mr Khomeyni, on your republic. He sent us a simple cable which he concluded by saying: Peace be on those who follow Islam. I believe most of you know the meaning of this expression. Muslim faithfuls use such things when addressing infidels.

We had here a person [not further identified] who called himself a man of religion, but in fact was a plotter with Khomeyni against Iraq's national entity. Khomeyni sent a cable — all these documents are available — to this man from Tehran through the normal telecommunication system telling him: I have learned that you intend to leave Iraq. I hope this will not take place, because we want you to lead the Islamic revolution in Iraq. These are just two examples which show Khomeyni's arrogance and how he viewed Iraq. If this is how he looks at Iraq, then you can imagine how he will look at other fraternal Arab states in the Gulf area and elsewhere.

All this took place before the war. Khomeyni used to instigate his Iranian collaborators who once lived in Iraq. He sent them messages to strike at Iraqi leaders and students in the streets of Baghdad. They killed and wounded women, children, and youths. When the students marched in a funeral, they hurled bombs at them, killing a number of students and leaders. All this took place before the war.

The first measure we took was to expel the Iranian collaborators. We told them: You came here looking for work, but now you want to turn the people of the country into slaves and yourselves into masters. Go back to your country [applause]. All the Iranians were expelled. The Iraqis remained safe in their country. We did all we could to avoid any hostility. But when they challenged us, we had to fight them. A living people who care about their honor, sovereignty, and principles cannot but fight when challenged. This is how your Iraqi brothers fought, with honor, bravery, patience, and unlimited readiness for sacrifice. Children, women, old people, and all able men participated in building and defending Iraq, each from his own position and in accordance wtih the task entrusted to him.

Therefore, when they challenge us and say that this battle will be a decisive one, we must appeal to all the factors of strength and righteousness among the Iraqis and say: Let it be decisive. When the battle took place, you saw the results. I assure you, brothers, that in any coming battle, they will only reap what you have seen. In fact, their fate will be uglier than before. Their words contradict their actions. Khomeyni spoke a few days ago and told his supporters: You say that you are ready to defend Iran if threatened by Iraq, but you are not ready to send your sons to faraway borders. Khomeyni accuses Iranians of being fanatically nationalist because they do not care about the affairs of the Muslims in Iraq as they do in Iran. But Khomeyni cares about the affairs of the Muslims in Iraq because he wants to occupy Iraq, humiliate Iraqis, and kill their children and women with artillery as has happened in his recent attacks on some of the Iraqi villages.

Khomeyni is a chauvinist who holds to the shah's imperialist gains and expansion on the territories of the Muslim Arabs in the Gulf. He does not want to return the territories to their owners. In the name of religion, Khomeyni wants to expand at the expense of his Arab neighbors.

Khomeyni criticized the world media for photographing Iranian casualties. One of the small charlatans among Khomeyni's collaborators said that all their losses in the last battle were not more than 100; 50 killed and 50 missing. There is not a more eloquent word than charlatan to describe Khomeyni and his collaborators. You have seen the television shots. Foreign correspondents went to the operations sectors and took photographs. They said that the Iranian soldiers did not know how to swim when they crossed the marshes to Iraqi dry land. Indeed, they did not know how to swim, and indeed their bodies began to surface in the marshes. So we sent correspondents and told them: Go and see the new bodies that have surfaced, and find out those that drowned and those that were hit by Iraqi bullets. Go back and see them.

Those in authority in Iran were not aware of what took place, and therefore should not be in a position of authority — at any rate, this is a matter that concerns the Iranian peoples — or they knew, and it is most likely that they knew what took place, but they are charlatans. A man of religion must be truthful. If he is a liar, then he does not deserve to be a man of religion or claim to be righteous.

Arab brothers, the history of the Arabs which both you and I have read is not a fiction, but a fact. Ths was how the Arabs faced challenges. Modern Arab history is full of examples. The Arab people in Algeria fought French colonialism and triumphed. Indeed, it was colonialism and it had to be expelled, but the Algerian people paid a high price to expel that colonialism. The Palestinians are a small people, but a number of their revolutionaries confronted the Zionist army in Lebanon. But we must also consider our people's experiences in Palestine and Lebanon. Had the Lebanese fought the invaders as they should have right from the beginning, they would not have suffered as they did. Had they fought in defense of their country as they should have and closed their ranks as they should have, they would have not sustained all these sacrifices. Had the Palestinians and their leaders considered their ill fate as we see it now, nothing would have happened to Palestine. Had the Arab nation and leaders considered what would have happened to Palestine as we see it now, and adopted a real stand against Zionist aggression and expansion, Palestine would not have been lost.

It is not enough, brothers, to say that imperialism did this and that and that the big powers want this and that. This is not new. It has existed since the emergence of the political state. Whenever a state becomes powerful, it wants to expand at the expense of others. Indeed, international relations are more organized and civilized, but the big powers still seek to expand in any war, whether through influence, interests, or direct occupation. We must not throw our burdens on others. We must search into ourselves and say: What must we do so we will not be humiliated, humbled, oppressed, and occupied. Be sure, brothers, every one of us is a hero. Every one of us is a hero if he only goes back to the history of the Arab nation and its heroisms, principles, and resources.

Look at what the big powers do. Here is a recent example. The United States say that it denounces Iraq's use of the so-called poisonous gases. It has borrowed this talk and these reports from Iran.

The United States knows that all of this talk by the Iranians is to put the blame for their failure on the so-called poisonous gases. You have seen the films, you have seen the bodies that were disfigured by the Iraqis' bullets. I do not believe that we have cut these films to remove the people who were hit by the poisonous gases.

This hypocrisy is the hypocrisy of interests at the expense of truth, honor, and principles. They are currying the favor of the Iranian rulers in order to lay the bridges of amity with them.

Brothers, the big powers are only concerned about their national interests. We do not want to blame them for their loyalty to their people and for seeking their people's national interests. However, when we find that anyone of us does not remain committed to his people's national interests, we must blame him.

Praise be to God, the Arabs have great resources. They are large in number, and their capability for giving, construction, and sacrifice is very high. Therefore, we should only seriously search for the means that will enable us to pool these resources.

My greetings and those of the Iraqi leadership and people to our brothers in the Arab homeland, both leaders and representatives of popular organizations and employers. Reassure them that our position is strong. It is better today that it was 6 months ago. Six months from now, God willing, it will be even much better. This is the rule of life. He who moves forward, life moves forward with him, and he who does not move forward remains backward.

There is an end to this affliction. Be reassured that Arab history will remain bright. Do not be ashamed. Do not fear that we might one day be defeated by the Iranian aggressors. Be reassured that every Iraqi here is an impregnable mountain on the Iraqi border and a sharp sword against the aggressors.

They will not pass on an inch of our territory except after paying a heavy price, and they will then be defeated and the territory will be forcibly retrieved from them.

This is the determination of every child, woman, old man and every civilian and soldier. This is the determination of everyone. God willing, we will not disappoint you.

Iraq will remain, as usual, now or after the tribulation, a strong supporter of Arab principles and of every Arab when he calls for assistance. Greetings.

God willing, you will always be proud and safe. Our greetings to all our brothers. God bless you.

Defense Minister Holds News Conference 6 Mar

JN061811 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1715 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, Armed Forces deputy commander in chief and defense minister, held a news conference this morning that was attended by Arab and foreign news and television correspondents and journalists. [sentence as heard]

At his news conference, the deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister dealt with the great victories that our valiant Armed Forces have scored, and with how they crushed and wiped out the Iranian regime's forces that tried to occupy and desecrate Iraq's pure soil east of Basra and east of Maysan.

Gen Khayrallah described the size of the heavy losses the Iranian enemy forces sustained in their recent aggression against Iraqi territory. He stressed that our valiant Armed Forces are staunchly and intrepidly defending our borders. He emphasized that the Iraqi forces will deal fiercer and stronger blows to the rancorous enemy, and will inflict more heavy losses on it if repeated attempts of aggression are made against our territory and our steadfast people.

Gen Khayrallah also spoke about the solidity and firmness of the military front, which is no less solid than our domestic front in defense of great Iraq under the unique command of President Saddam Husayn, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

Discusses Exocets, Super Etendards

JN062127 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2045 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Hasan al-Kashif dispatch from Baghdad]

[Text] The island of Majnun is now a fierce battlefield. This is what the Iraqi defense minister announced at a news conference at noon today [words indistinct] Iranian brigades in addition to regular forces are trying to cling to the island, which is now witnessing the last confrontation in the battle that has been raging for the past 2 weeks in southern Iraq.

On the existing Iranian massing of troops and the military eventualities, the Iraqi defense minister said: They are speaking about a large offensive, and we are acting on the basis that the offensive is really taking place. The Iraqi Armed Forces deputy commander in chief added that Iran's military option no longer exists, or at least has been sent to the back lines. He added: I am optimistic. Despite the fact that military surprises exist, we are on the safe side.

What about Khark Island and the Iraqi siege on it, the correspondents asked him? He replied: If the need arises, we will destroy the Khark Island and we will do our best to deprive Iran of its exports through this island. We will strike all of the tankers that our monitoring equipment will discover and which our weapons can reach. He said: Iraq possesses Exocet missiles, and we will use them on transportation means other than the Super Etendard plane. However, the Super Etendard has given us a longer arm.

On Iraq's economic situation, the Iraqi defense minister said that Iraq concluded an agreement with Jordan to install a huge oil pipeline, and that this pipeline will be completed very shortly. There is also a similar pipeline through Saudi Arabia which is nearing completion.

On Majnun Island Assault

JN061925 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] The Iraqi forces today began counterattacks to purge the Iraqi territories of the limited infiltrations which the aggressor Iranian forces made with their rush human waves in their repeated attacks during the past 2 weeks. The Iraqi forces launched a large-scale attack on the Iranian forces on the Iraqi island [as heard] of Majnun today in order to regain the island and expel the Iranians from it. This was announced in a news conference Iraqi Defense Minister 'Adnan Khayrallah held today. He also said that the island is currently witnessing an assault to repel the Iranian forces from the island, which is located on the border in the eastern Tigris area.

The Iraqi defense minister also explained that the Iranians have had 30,000 killed in the recent battle in addition to their losses during the Iraqi air raids and artillery shelling of the Iranian positions. He also pointed out that there are 100 Iranians killed for every Iraqi martyr during these battles. The Iraqi defense minister also asserted that the Iranian forces used Syrian, Libyan, Israeli, DPRK, and Soviet weapons and equipment during their recent attack on the Iraqi territories.

The Iraq defense minister bitterly attacked Syria for its support of Iran, and said that is the first time in history that the Arabs have killed one another in the interest of a foreign enemy. He also reiterated Iraq's peaceful initiatives, and said: Iraq has no preconditions for ending the fighting against Iran, provided that each country respects good neighborliness between the two countries and does not interfere in each other's domestic affairs.

Further on Majnun Attack

JN062212 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad — Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, Iraqi minister of defense, said that Iraq today began an attack against the Iranian forces that are currently occupying Iraq's oil island of Majnun — located in the southern edges of the Huwayzah marshes — in order to regain the island from the Iranian forces. He added that this area was occupied by Iran 2 weeks ago, emphasizing that it is the only area in Iraqi territory that is under Iranian occupation. He reiterated that the liberation of this area was delayed because of the presence of other priorites in military calculations. This is in addition to the difficult terrain in the area.

Khayrallah gave his reassurances about the course of military operations in the area, and said: We have taken all the technical precautions in order to protect the oil wells in the Majnun fields — these oil wells are not yet exploited. It is worth noting that there are four brigades of Iranian volunteers in the Majnun area, supported by regular Iranian forces.

Khayrallah: 'Traditional Weapons' Used

JN062254 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad — Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Iraqi Armed Forces and defense minister, has affirmed that Iraq did not use internationally-banned chemical weapons against the Iranian forces in recent battles, as both the Iranian and U.S. Governments claimed. He said that Iraq's traditional weapons are able to repel the enemy Iranian forces and inflict bitter defeats on them. Khayrallah strongly attacked the United States for adopting the Iranian claims voiced by a U.S. State Department official.

In a news conference held at the Palace of Conferences at noon today and attended by more than 250 Arab and foreign journalists, Iraq's defense minister said that the United States is enthusiastic about Iran, and he wondered what this premature U.S. enthusiasm is for. He recalled what Iran did to U.S. embassies, and the inhuman and unethical practices against the staff of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. He affirmed that the military option with regard to Iran has become out of the question, and reiterated that Iraq might be obliged to destroy Khark Island. [sentence as heard] He added: We will do our best to deprive Iran of exporting its oil. We will strongly strike at the tankers that we find approaching the island in order to prevent Iran from exporting its oil as long as we are deprived of exporting our oil through the Arab Gulf.

Khayrallah affirmed that Iraq has new weapons and that Iraq's policy aims at continuously modernizing its army with the most modern weapons in the world. He reiterated that all of Iraq's weapons are traditional.

He spoke about the Arab countries' stands on the Iraqi-Iranian war, praising the stands of certain Arab countries that extend aid to Iraq. He also denounced the stands of certain Arab countries that are supplying Iran with weapons and equipment, explaining that such weapons were found with the Iranian forces in their recent aggression against the Iraqi land and people in the Huwayzah marshes area. He said that Libya previously supplied Iran with other heavy weapons, such as tanks, and that Syria took Iran's side in the war.

Khayrallah affirmed that Iraqi losses in the latest battles were very small because the Iraqi forces were defending their land. Iranian losses were large. Iran lost more than 50,000 soldiers.

Armed Forces Communique No 1,396 — 6 March

JN061758 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Communique No 1,396 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 6 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. As long as the clique of evil and filth in Tehran and Qom continues to insist on pursuing aggression against our lofty country, they will find the sons of great Iraq and its courageous Armed Forces waiting for them — fully confident in the inevitability of the decisive victory and our ability to inflict more losses and affliction on their retreating forces. The results are as follows:

1. Our valiant units used all types of weapons to strongly pound enemy units opposite their positions east of Basra, dealing them fierce and intensive blows — inflicting large numbers of killed and wounded on them, and destroying large quantities of weapons, military hardware, and various types of equipment.

2. The aircraft of our valiant Air Force today carried out successful raids against enemy positions and units opposite our forward units' positions east of Basra, scoring direct and effective hits and inflicting heavy losses in life and equipment on the enemy. All of our aircraft returned safely to base, praise be to God. Our aircraft carried out 125 combat missions today.

3. Our helicopter gunships today raided enemy positions and troop concentrations opposite our forward units' positions east of Basra, scoring accurate and effective hits and inflicting heavy losses in life and equipment on them. Known enemy losses amount to 125 troop concentrations, 5 boats, 16 vehicles, 8 pieces of various types of military hardware, 1 personnel carrier, 3 excavators, and 3 106-mm guns. All of our helicopters returned safely to base, praise be to God. Our helicopter gunships carried out 213 combat missions today.

4. Enemy troop concentrations were sighted opposite our forward units' positions in the central sector of the battlefield. Our units pounded them with all types of weapons, killing one while the rest fled. Our units also destroyed one infantry position and one observation post in another area of the same sector.

5. Our forward units pounded an enemy troop concentration opposite their forward positions in the northern sector of the battlefield, killing one enemy element and forcing the rest to flee. Another enemy element was captured in another area in the same sector.

6. The clique of evil and crime shelled Basra, Khanaqin, Ash-Shihabi, Mandali, and Zurbatiyah with heavy artillery today. As a result of the enemy's shelling, three civilians were wounded, four houses and two civilian cars were damaged in Basra; three houses were destroyed and two houses were damaged in Khanaqin; and two houses and one elementary school were damaged in Ash-Shihabi.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, on 6 March 1984

East Tigris Commander Describes Recent Operations

JN070803 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0550 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Mar (INA) — Staff Major General Hisham Sabah al-Fakhri, commander of the east Tigris forces, has said that his forces' command was formed and began its tasks within 7 hours in order to swiftly decide the military situation after the Iranian forces had infiltrated Iraqi territory during the recent military operations. In a statement to *ATH-THAWRAH* today, the commander said that the Iraqi command had assigned his forces the task of containing the momentum of the Iranian infiltration which began to expand in that area. We said that the east Tigris forces, formed late last month, applied three principles to expel the Iranians: swift action, courage in storming enemy positions, and simple military planning.

The commander said that 3,000 Iraqi soldiers carried out the first pounce on the attacking Iranian units, using hand grenades and light weapons. They were able to wipe them out and to control the area where they had been.

The commander pointed out that the width of the area against which the enemy advanced and the volume of its forces there show that it intended to penetrate our territory and to expand later in order to realize expansionist gains. Therefore, the enemy sent further reinforcements to reach the dry Iraqi territory through the Al-Huwayzah marshes. He said the infiltration was on a large scale in terms of manpower with the aim of reaching the Baghdad-Basra highway, taking advantage of the edges of these marshes, which were not more than 10 km from this road in many places. He said that the Iranian command pushed four infantry divisions armed with light and medium weapons into this area in order to ensure success with the first push and subsequently to continue the momentum of the attack and spread to other areas.

The commander said that the Iraqi command took into account the various possibilities in the enemy attack, both on the strategic and the conventional levels. He added: Consequently, the process of confronting the infiltrators was very swift. A new field command was formed for the purpose of destroying enemy forces in the Al-Huwayzah area. This command is the east Tigris forces' command. After its formation and after all the necessary means of combat became available, fierce battles raged in the area due to the nature of the terrain.

The commander said that battles raged on a 40-km front during which the Iraqi forces achieved full control of the situation so as to end the infiltration and wipe out the enemy forces. All the enemy troops were either killed, wounded, or captured. Those who fled toward Iranian territory were pursued by our helicopters and artillery fire. He said that the Iraqi artillery fire prevented any new reinforcements from reaching the infiltrators.

The Iraqi commander also said that the enemy forces were extremely large but the Iraqi command was prepared for the worst and, therefore, they were able to swiftly besiege the enemy forces despite the large area over which they were spread and to maintain firepower against them from every side. He made it clear that the temporary presence of the Iranian forces in Iraqi territory was due to their exploitation of the water channels that are connected with Iranian territory and their use of steam boats that can carry large numbers in addition to small boats. They also exploited the large front, which is close to the Iranian territory. This front could be crossed under the cover or darkness.

He said that despite the Iranian infiltration, the Iranians failed to realize their main aim of maintaining their presence on Iraqi soil, which became a mass graveyard for them due to the effective

Iraqi attacks and weapons. He said that in expelling the Iranian infiltrators, the Iraqis used all kinds of weapons relying on a new method of effective, swift action that was characterized by concentrated surprise attacks with hand grenades. He said that the Iraqis attacked from the left and the right with heavy attacks from the center in order to reach the edge of the marshes and besiege the infiltrators in the As-Sakhrah and Al-Baydah villages. This allowed the Iraqi soldiers to be stationed behind the Iranians.

The commander said that the Iraqi command decided to confront the Iranians in hand-to-hand combat. We had officers on the level of platoon commander at the forefront of the battlefield. This helped us to wipe out the enemy forces within the shortest possible time.

The commander expected the Iranians to carry out a new offensive and said that the enemy will continue its aggression as long as it insists on bloodshed.

Concluding his statement, the commander of the east Tigris forces said that these forces are now on a high state of alert: They are ready to inflict heavy losses on the Iranians forces so that we will exhaust their resources and destroy their aggressive dreams and economic capability until they surrender.

Contract With USSR To Study Nuclear Power Site

JN071201 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1052 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Mar (INA) — The Iraqi atomic energy organization today signed a contract with the Soviet (v/o Atomenergoeksport) establishment to carry out the first phase of a study for choosing a site for a nuclear electric power station. In a statement to INA, a responsible source in the organization said that the project will cover part of Iraq's requirements for electric power. He said that the organization is working to develop the peaceful use of nuclear energy in various fields, mainly electricity.

The source said that in a letter addressed to the IAEA conference held in Guinea in September 1982, President Saddam Husayn explained Iraq's plan in this regard. This plan emphasizes a large-scale development plan that will include the various aspects of social, economic, and cultural development, based on scientific planning for the best exploitation of its wealth.

The source said: Naturally, within this comprehensive development, we are working hard to develop alternative sources of energy other than oil which is shrinking, including nuclear energy. He said that nuclear energy is considered the only type of energy that can compete with oil from an economic standpoint. The source also said that our reliance on nuclear energy as an alternative source of energy means planning for and building a technological capability, research, and the establishment of infrastructures that can render effective support for our nuclear program.

It may be mentioned that Iraq is an active member of IAEA and has signed and ratified the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Arab League's Klibi Arrives in Baghdad 6 Mar

JN061145 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1105 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Mar (INA) — Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi arrived in Baghdad today on a brief visit within an Arab tour. Klibi told INA that he would hold talks with President Saddam Husayn and a number of Iraqi officials on the current developments in the region. He will also brief Iraqi officials on talks he held with officials in those countries he has already visited. Klibi said: I have observed great concern about the current developments which threaten the region and endanger world peace.

Klibi said that the Arab states are eager to enhance their efforts and support all mediations to convince the Iranian leadership of the need to resort to peace. He said his talks with Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who received him at the airport, will deal with issues relating to the Arab League council's ordinary session, which will be held shortly. He said that this Arab League session is of great importance in view of the current circumstances and the need for the right preparations to convene the forthcoming Arab summit conference in Riyadh.

Tariq 'Aziz Receives Klibi

JN061839 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1820 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Mar (INA) — Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met here today with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi with whom he discussed the Iranian aggression against Iraq and the Iranian regime's insistence on threatening both Iraq's sovereignty and the Arab nation.

The two sides also discussed the measures that Arab countries must adopt in order to confront this unjust aggression in accordance with the Arab League Charter, the Arab Collective Defense Pact, and the 1982 Fes Summit resolutions. They also reviewed the current Arab situation and the results of the Arab League secretary general's recent contacts on the Arab and international level.

JORDAN TIMES Considers Prospects for Lebanon

JN061345 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6 Mar 84 p 4

[Editorial: "The Cart Continues To Roll"]

[Text] It has been crystal clear that, following the collapse last month of U.S. policy on Lebanon, President Amin al-Jumayyil had but to cancel the Lebanese-Israeli withdrawal agreement of May 17. Now that he has done so, it would be more pertinent to ask what comes next, rather than dwelling on what had happened before. The Lebanese move has wide implications on nearly all fronts in the Middle East.

Syria, having won the battle over the accord, has not yet achieved victory for Lebanon, nor consequently for itself. How, for instance, is Damascus going to get the Israelis out of the south? And how can it guarantee a true Lebanese reconciliation that could also last? Where do we all go from here?

Both the government and the opposition in Israel have been calling for agreement with Syria over protecting their border in the north. But President al-Asad apparently is not in a hurry to reach understanding with the Israelis on Lebanon now, leaving them with limited options on what could be done.

The U.S., its leaders admit, does not have much to do with the crisis of Lebanon at the present, since American Marines are no longer in Beirut and the accord that Secretary of State George Shultz helped negotiate last year is no longer wanted by one of the major parties to the conflict.

Lebanon, for its part, is still torn apart by the factional strife that has plagued it since 1975 and most of its territory is still under non-Lebanese control. The door for reconciliation might have been opened after the scrapping of the May 17 accord, but there is a lot of work to be done to rid the country of foreign occupation and to restore its unity, independence and sovereignty.

The Arabs should not be shedding any tears over the demise of the Lebanese-Israeli withdrawal agreement: It amounted to another peace treaty imposed on an independent Arab state by Israel. But, still, we should be asking ourselves one or two basic questions at this stage.

First, in whose interest lies an extended Israeli occupation of South Lebanon, or even a permanent occupation of this territory? Second, whose interest is served by continuing to place the problem of Lebanon as an obstacle to achieving lasting settlement in the Middle East through an Israeli withdrawal from all Arab territories occupied since 1967, given that the time factor is of vital importance in the fight for our rights and land?

These questions should be addressed to all Arabs, and others as well, but also to Syria, which has just won its battle over the May 17 accord but which surely does not want the cart to stop rolling there.

AR-RA'Y on PLO-Jordan Talks, Israeli Reaction

JN061346 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Mar 84 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "Israel and the Jordanian-Palestinian Talks"]

[Text] The Israeli media have not concealed their displeasure with the Jordanian-Palestinian talks. These media expressed fear that the Jordanian-Palestinian coordination would improve the morale of our kinfolk in the occupied territory.

This Israeli displeasure is not strange because it reflects the Israeli rulers' disappointment after having lost their bets and coming to realize that Jordanian-Palestinian cohesion has again proved to be stronger than the plots being hatched against it and that the kinfolk in the occupied territory have developed their steadfastness into moves, as represented by the delegation which arrived in Amman and the petition they presented, which calls for further cohesion among the sons of the unified Jordanian-Palestinian family.

Thus, the Jordanian-Palestinian talks, which are meant to lay down the bases for a "joint initiative," to Israel mean serious resistance to its plan to freeze the Palestinian cause. They also mean laying down the basis that will attract the support of the Arab majority and direct this support toward a positive action. Israel fears this and considers it to be a defeat of its bet on the "Arab slumbering" which it regards as the most important factor in continuing its annexation of Arab land and establishment of more settlements.

These talks also show that Jordan and the PLO are determined to save our people in the West Bank. They will improve people's morale there and will enhance their steadfastness and resistance to the evil Israeli designs. Hence, the fears expressed by the Israeli propaganda media are based on the consequences that Israel fears will take place in the occupied areas as a result of the efforts being exerted in Amman to establish joint Jordanian-Palestinian action.

Therefore, we do not rule out the possibility that Israel will escalate its campaigns against the Jordanian-Palestinian cohesion. Such campaigns will not affect these talks, which aim to clearify the bases for the cherished joint action. We have strong hopes that no Arab side will be involved in similar campaigns that will serve in one form or another the suspect Israeli campaigns.

Correction to Jordan Section of 2 Mar DAILY REPORT

The following correction pertains to the second section of the 2 March Middle East and Africa *DAILY REPORT* labeled "Inter-Arab Affairs," pages A 1 to A 4: The section headling is incorrect and should be retitled "Jordan."

National Dialogue Conference To Open 12 Mar

NC061557 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] It has been officially decided to hold the second round of the National Dialogue Conference at the Beau Rivage Hotel in Lausanne, Switzerland, under the chairmanship of President Amin al-Jumayyil on Monday morning. President Amin al-Jumayyil sent invitations today to the members of the dialogue body through the governors in Beirut and the districts. He earlier charged Joseph Jughaysati, the presidency director general, with contacting Beirut Governor Engineer Mitri an-Nammar to convey the invitation to [former] President Camille Sham'un, [former] Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam, Pierre al-Jumayyil, and Lawyer Nabih Birri.

The president charged Iskandar Ghibril, the governor of the north, to address invitations to [former] Sulayman Franjiyah and [former] Prime Minister Rashid Karami. He charged Halim Fayyad, the governor of the south, to address the invitation to [former] Speaker 'Adil 'Usayran. He further charged Marcelle Nammur, Lebanon's ambassador to Jordan, to address the invitation to Walid Junblatt, who is now in Amman.

The oral invitation says: The second round of the Dialogue Conference will be held at the Beau Rivage Hotel in Lausanne, Switzerland, on Monday, 12 March. The opening session will be held at 1000.

Each member of the dialogue body has been asked to take two advisers with him. It has been learned that the Swiss authorities have requested that all delegation leaders and members stay at the hotel to facilitate the security measures to be adopted for the protection of the participants.

Johnny 'Abduh, Lebanon's ambassador to Switzerland, has informed Presidential Palace circles that measures have been adopted for the reservation of the hotel and the protection of the conferees.

The invitees are expected to arrive in Lausanne Sunday night. The date of the president's departure has not yet been fixed and members of the delegation to accompany him have not been named yet.

It has been learned that members of the preparatory committee which emanated from the first round of the Geneva conference will meet in Lausanne on Saturday in a preparatory session before the opening of the second round.

Source Quoted on Agenda

NC070854 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Security and booking arrangements have been made in the Beau Rivage Hotel in Lausanne where the National Dialogue Conference will be held under the chairmanship of President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil. The Swiss Government has asked the delegations to stay at the hotel to facilitate security arrangements preparatory to the opening of the conference at 1000 Monday.

The conference's agenda has not been officially announced, but a reliable source said that the authorities have divided the agenda into two parts, one political and the other military. The first deals with various questions related to security and the Army. The second part of the agenda will be devoted to discussing structural reforms on the basis of the various working papers which the conferees will present.

The source said that the Lausanne meetings will not last more than 2 days. The conferees have only to agree on the broad lines for reforms and the formation of a national unity government, the decrees on which will be issued later. This government will implement the resolutions adopted at the Lausanne conference.

Salim, Birri Discuss Conference

NC062107 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Amal Movement leader lawyer Nabih Birri received two telephone calls from Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim tonight. They discussed developments, particularly the invitation to the second round of the National Dialogue Conference to be held in Lausanne, Switzerland, on Monday, 12 March.

Opposition Leaders' Meetings

NC062124 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] [Former] Prime Ministers Taqiyy ad-Din as-Sulh, Salim al-Huss, and Rashid as-Sulh, and Malik Salim, Nasib al-Barbir, Marwan Hamadah, Khalid Junblatt, and Amal Movement leader lawyer Nabih Birri met at the house of Taqiyy ad-Din as-Sulh tonight. Taqiyy ad-Din as-Sulh said the discussions centered on three issues: the discussions held in Damascus between Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt on one side and Syrian officials on the other; the submission by Hamadah on the ideas and studies to be submitted at the Lausanne conference by the Amal Movement and the Progressive Socialist Party; and a review of security affairs and the escalation of violence along the contact lines and deep in Beirut and in Iqlim al-Kharrub, where these actions are becoming very fierce and grave.

P. al-Jumayyil, Sham'un Remarks

NC071057 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] The Lebanese Front held its weekly meeting today and reviewed the latest current developments. Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil said after the meeting that Lebanon is now looking for a formula better than the 17 May accord, which, regrettably, was stillborn. He added that the dialogue meetings are very important because they will involve opposing parties. He, however, said that the real and serious meeting which will produce good results is the one which will involve all the Lebanese. He pointed out that the Chamber of Deputies is the most suitable institution to which all proposals should be referred.

[Former] President Camile Sham'un said: We entertain identical views with the Front on bringing to the Lausanne conference a unified stand in defense of the basis on which the Lebanese entity will depend in the future.

Armenian Bishop's Comment

NC061714 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] A meeting was held at the Greek Orthodox Archbishopric in Al-Ashrafiyah at 1600. It was attended by Patriarch Hazim and representatives of the Armenian community and the Tashnag Party. At 1800, another meeting will be held at the Tashnag Party headquarters. It will be attended by the Armenian deputies and representatives of the Greek catholics.

Bishop Aram Kishishian, bishop of the Armenian Orthodox community, has stated: We believe that participation in the national dialogue must not be the privilege of only the disputing parties in the Lebanese arena or be confined to some of the communities that constitute the Lebanese family. The Armenian and other Christian communities, especially the Greek Orthodox and the Greek Catholic communities, must participate in the national dialogue because participation is the right and duty of

Birri Comments on Abrogation, Reconciliation

NC061914 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri has congratulated the Lebanese, Arabs, and Muslims on the abrogation of the 17 May agreement. He said that this abrogation is considered a real blow to the Israeli era of the invasion of the Arabs.

Lawyer Birri said this at a news conference held at his house this morning. A large number of local and world newsmen and news agency correspondents attended.

Birri said at the news conference that the Amal Movement and its allies, headed by the National Salvation Front, Walid Junblatt and the other Islamic forces, will attend the Dialogue Conference because they are among its advocates. He added: The Amal Movement did not fight for the sake of a Shi'ite or factional post. It belongs to all the Lebanese and consequently it demands justice for all of them. We believe that the minimum limit for constituting a guarantee for Lebanon in the future is the cancellation of political sectarianism. The problem is not one of the three top posts; the main problem lies in the remaining rungs of this system.

Birri further said: The abrogation of the 17 May agreement does not mean we have fully achieved our objective. We appreciate fraternal Syria's support for us in Lebanon to foil these plans. We must demand the Arabs and the entire world in general and the Lebanese in particular consider that the elimination of the consequences of the agreement lies in the liberation of the south. The south will remain the main and basic issue in all our policies and dialogues.

Asked how he views Lebanon in the future, Birri said: The time for compromise solutions is over. Either a Lebanon of equality among the Lebanese is built on the basis of the clear, correct, and pure Arab line — which always stresses Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and distinguished charter — or else Lebanon will not survive. We are indeed passing through the most delicate stages. The abrogation of the agreement is an important event, but it is not the end of the road, in our view. It is the beginning and it is a good beginning.

Regarding the obstacles obstructing a firm cease-fire, Birri said: A meeting was held here yesterday. All the military and security leaders concerned attended. We have declared our commitment to the cease-fire since yesterday. We did this unilaterally. I stress this hoping that the other sides will act likewise. We are not prepared to hold a dialogue under the muzzle of the gun. Let this be clear.

Asked if the opposition will take a prepared program to the Dialogue Conference, Birri said: No. The opposition will take a plan to the Dialogue Conference and it will try to make it a general national Lebanese plan. The alliance required is a Lebanese-Lebanese alliance ensuring the rights of the land and all peoples. I believe that Lebanon's problem has always been that the proposals were based on the corrupt reality and that these were made in an attempt to correct this reality. A druggist cannot cure what time has spoiled. When we start thinking about the Lebanese man, then we can sidestep the stage of speaking about the sectarian alliances, which could only be at the expense of Lebanon.

Demands Not Affected

NC061303 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Nabih Birri has stated that the abrogation of the [17 May] agreement was due to the steadfastness of the sons of national Beirut, the southern suburb, the mountain, and Iqlim [Al-Kharrub]. They alone abrogated the agreement. The Amal Movement leader stressed that the abrogation of the agreement will not be at the expense of national demands. He added: We made sure about this from President Hafiz al-Asad himself.

Birri cautioned that Israel is acting to create a new ally among the Sa'd Haddad forces under the command of a retired officer.

Further Reaction to Abrogation of 17 May Pact

PSP Issues Statement

NC062009 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] The Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] has issued a statement which says: At last the regime has bowed to the new reality; it has abrogated the 17 May agreement, which it had described to the people as the only way out and as being supported by the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese. The maneuver in support of the agreement began from East Beirut with a scenario in which the participants tried to imply that they are detached from the regime and even opposed to it.

In any case, we were never deceived by these people. The abrogation of the 17 May agreement has become an established fact. However, in this connection we would like to clarify the following to all:

1. The abrogation of the 17 May agreement is not a gift from the Lebanese regime or from anybody else. It is the outcome of a long and hard struggle which the Lebanese people, backed by Syria, have waged for over 1 year.

2. The abrogation of the agreement has finally and decisively consecrated Lebanon's affilitation with its Arab shpere and not any other sphere. Consequently, it is a retraction by the regime and its followers from their false belief and their wrong policy that Lebanon could remain outside this sphere.

3. The abrogation of the agreement is a victory for the nationalist and Islamic forces over the Phalangist and fascist hegemony. These forces in the mountain, the suburb, Beirut, and the Al-Kharrub region have paid a dear price for this victory and sacrificed hundreds of martyrs and victims for it.

4. The abrogation of the agreement is also a victory for the Syrian people's steadfastness and their valiant leadership against the Phalangist plot and the Phalangist regime in Lebanon, which on one occasion dared threaten to shell Damascus and its people.

The Lebanese crisis existed before the 17 May agreement, and it will continue to exist if no solution is found for all the requested political reforms. The PSP reaffirms the following demands:

1. No solution can be acceptable unless it specifies those who are responsible for the destruction of the mountain, the suburb, the Al-Kharrub region, and Ra's an-Nab'.

2. Any solution must include all the political reforms proposed by the national side as mentioned in the statement issued by the Islamic meeting in Beirut. Henceforth, no one will accept the continuation of the system of privileges, hegemony, and discrimination among the citizens in Lebanon.

3. Any solution must ensure that all kidnapped people are returned to their relatives, and also that the people displaced since 1975 return to their homes and land.

4. Any solution must abolish all the legislative decrees issued by the Phalangist regime and also all the promotions and appointments which have created this chaotic situation and the one-party hegemony.

5. Any solution must put an end to the use of the Army in other than its great national tasks. It is no longer acceptable that the Army should be involved in internal conflicts, as happened in the southern suburb battle and in Beirut.

Any talk about a solution remains empty talk if it does not take all these points into consideration. From the position of its national, moral, and pan-Arab responsibility, the PSP knows that the majority of the Lebanese shares its views and fully supports its political and national approach.

Shams ad-Din Hails Abrogation

NC061552 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Shams ad-Din, deputy chairman of the Supreme Shi'ite Islamic Council, has stated that he considers the abrogation of the 17 May agreement as a historic step and a brave, wise, and farsighted action. In a message addressed to the southerners today on the occasion of the agreement's abrogation, Shams ad-Din said that no Lebanese should consider the agreement's abrogation as a defeat for him because it represents a victory for Lebanon and all its sons, both Christians and Muslims.

Franjiyah Expresses Thanks

NC061747 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] [Former] President Sulayman Franjiyah has expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the president and his government for abrogating the 17 May agreement, describing this action as a daring national step which returned Lebanon to the foundations on which the leaders of independence built it. He hoped that President al-Jumayyil will make 5 March a national day similar to Independence Day on 22 November.

Franjiyah said that Lebanon triumphed with the abrogation. He stressed the need to consolidate the cease-fire and restore normal life to the Lebanese citizen until the date and venue of the meeting of the national dialogue body are fixed. He hoped that the discussion at this meeting will be general and will deal with everything that could return Lebanon to the status it enjoyed before 1975.

This came in Franjiyah's weekly news conference held in Zgharta today. He said: I affirm and reiterate thatall Lebanese communities.

Israel will leave our territory when all relations with it are severed. It will do so not out any fear for us, or to safeguard our interests, but because of fear of a revolution breaking out inside Israel against its presence on our land. This, however, does not mean that when Israel leaves its agents — who are regrettably present in all areas — will also go. If these agents stay behind unpunished, they will continue their subversive actions. When all of us agree on a plan, however, they will be cut down to size.

Franjiyah was asked: Do we understand from this that the second Geneva conference will be a suitable opportunity for all to return to the national unity? He answered: If we take the good intentions that dominated our first meeting in Geneva as a criterion, then all will be well, with God's help.

Further Remarks Cited

NC061215 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] [Former] President Sulayman Franjiyah, during his weekly news conference in his palace in Zgharta this morning, spoke about various apsects of the current situation in Lebanon, particularly the abrogation of the 17 May agreement. He said: The agreement with Israel was abrogated yesterday, thank God. I extend my thanks and appreciation to His Excellency President Amin al-Jumayyil and his government for this daring national step. This blessed step has returned Lebanon to the foundations on which the leaders of independence built Lebanon. These leaders were, in particular, the late Shaykh Bisharah al-Khuri and Riyadh as-Sulh. The foundations are that Lebanon must be free, sovereign, and independent, and that it must not be a headquarters for colonialists or Zionists. Lebanon must also not be a passage way for strikes at its Arab sisters, and it must remain faithful to its Arab affiliations.

Franjiyah added: I would like to again repeat my thanks and appreciation to his excellency the president for this patriotic stand, which history will put on record as it did in the past for the heroes of the evacuation of the colonizers. I hope President al-Jumayyil will make 5 March a national day similar to independence day on 22 November.

Communist Party Statement

NC061613 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] The Lebanese Communist Party Politburo considers the abortion of the 17 May agreement as a very important juncture in the course of progress of Lebanon and of the Arab region. In a statement, the Politburo emphasizes that the abrogation of the agreement is an utter defeat for the Israeli occupation and its political results and for U.S. domination of Lebanon and the area.

Liberal Christians Comment

NC061610 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] The Liberal Christian Grouping [at-tajammu' al-masihi al-hurr] in the south regards the annulment of the 17 May agreement as signifying the annulment of the peace agreement between the two civilized states, Lebanon and Israel, and the start of the fulfillment of the old Syrian dream.

Salim Briefs Political Committee on Developments

NC061251 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] The Higher Liaison Body's political committee held its periodical meeting at the presidential palace at noon today under the chairmanship of Foreign and Expatriates Minister Dr Elie Salim. The meeting was held in the presence of the Italian and British ambassadors, the U.S. and French charges d'affaires, and the Lebanese and international officers team.

At the outset of the meeting, the chief of the operations room at the presidential palace reviewed the various aspects of the security situation. He noted that the latest cease-fire agreement has been widely respected.

Minister Salim informed the conferees of the cabinet's decision canceling the 17 May agreement. He gave the necessary clarifications relating to this matter. He also briefed the conferees on the Lebanese-Syrian summit talks.

Lebanese Forces Commander Opposes Concessions

NC061932 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1745 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] The commander in chief of the Lebanese Forces, Mr Fadi Afram, has affirmed that the Lebanese Forces are again the focal point of hope for the people of Lebanon and their only salvation. This has been confirmed by the various Christian leaderships, who have expressed their convictions which conform to those of the Lebanese Forces.

Mr Fadi Afram said that after the series of submissions made by the people after the series of hard blows they have suffered, it was inadmissible that the road of concession-making be still followed.

Junblatt on Dialogue Meeting, Al-Jumayyil

JN061252 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1208 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Fu'ad Na'im dispatch from Amman]

[Text] Walid Junblatt, leader of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party [PSP], has asserted that he wants to consult with his allies in the Lebanese National Salvation Front to find out whether it is necessary for him to attend the second Geneva conference which will be held in Lausanne next Monday. Junblatt, who is currently in Amman, said that if he attends the conference, a joint paper will be prepared which will be different from the one presented during the first conference because the circumstances have changed following events in southern Beirut and the mountain.

Junblatt said that a main point must be stressed: taking to task those who were responsible for destroying southern Beirut and the mountain. Junblatt said the basic responsibilities must be presented. These are the legislative decrees which constitute a clear violation of the Constitution. [sentence as heard]

On evaluating the situation following the abrogation of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement and his demand for Amin al-Jumayyil's resignation, the PSP leader said: President Amin al-Jumayyil was not instrumental in abrogating the agreement. It was canceled through the Syrian rejection and the Lebanese opposition. As for the resignation, our demand is not directed against President Amin al-Jumayyil personally; we demand the resignation of Amin al-Jumayyil's approach. We will consider that he has abandoned the foreign part of his policy by canceling the agreement with Israel. Now he should also abandon his internal approach, that is, President Amin al-Jumayyil's internal policy. We must discuss the issue of accounting for the use of the Army in internal disputes, the Phalangist hegemony over the state, and the illegal appointments.

Junblatt said: We must find out who are responsible for the events which took place in southern Beirut and the mountain. We believe President Amin al-jumayyil bears responsible in this regard.

JORDAN TIMES Report

JN070730 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 7 Mar 84 p 1

[By 'Afifah Kaluti]

[Text] Amman — Lebanese opposition leader Walid Junblatt Tuesday cautiously welcomed Lebanon's abrogation Monday of its May 17 troop withdrawal pact with Israel but said it was not the remedy for the strife-torn nation's internal problems.

Mr. Junblatt, who arrived in Amman Monday, told the *JORDAN TIMES* that the abrogation of Lebanon's pact with Israel would serve to preserve the country's relations with the Arab World, but it cannot be considered as a step in the right direction to achieve "true national reconciliation."

Asked whether he would attend Lebanese national reconciliation talks scheduled to be opened Monday in Lausanne, Switzerland, Mr Junblatt said he had not yet decided and that he had to consult his allies in the Syrian-backed "National Salvation Front" before reaching a decision.

Mr. Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), however, ruled out that the planned Lausanne talks would be a resumption of the reconciliation talks held in Geneva in November 1983. "Our demands have changed since Geneva and the catastrophe in Lebanon," he said. The mainly Druze PSP holds Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil responsible for the army's attacks against Druze villages in the Ash-Shuf mountains, Mr. Junblatt said, and reiterated his call for a "fair trial for Al-Jumayyil for his crimes against the Lebanese people."

"Al-Jumayyil is responsible for over 4.000 refugees who have been left without homes because of the attacks on the southern suburbs of Beirut and Druze villages" he said.

The PSP leader asserted that the United States can no longer play a creative role in restoring peace to Lebanon and called for the inclusion of the Soviet Union in peace efforts.

"The U.S. has proved itself to be a complete failure" he said.

Asked whether the abrogation of the May 17 pact would strengthen Israel's determination to stay on in Lebanon, Mr. Junblatt said: "Israel would do whatever it wants regardless ofthe pact."

AFP: French Expecting Attacks by Islamic Jihad

NC061423 Paris AFP in English 1413 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Beirut, March 6 (AFP) — The extremist Islamic Jihad Movement which has told French troops to get out of Lebanon or face the consequences, today warned Lebanese to stay away from French positions which would be "targets for attacks".

Islamic Jihad, a supposedly pro-Iranian group, has claimed responsibility for all the worst attacks directed against the multinational peacekeeping force in Beirut, notably the October 23 suicide truck bombs which killed about 300 U.S. and French soldiers in their barracks. The movement, in a communique published in the newspapers *AN-NAHAR* and *AS-SAFIR*, claimed credit for three anti-French attacks carried out over the past 5 days.

In the most recent, yesterday, a French soldier was killed by a rocket fired at a French position on the southern edge of Beirut. The day before a grenade was thrown "as a warning" at the French Embassy building in west Beirut during a visit by French External Affairs Minister Claude Cheysson. The Islamic Jihad Movement said: "We could have destroyed the embassy." Another rocket was fired on Thursday at the lodge of the caretaker at the French Embassy, the communique added.

The communique called for the "immediate withdrawal of the French contingent" and warned Lebanese against "approaching French interests in Lebanon which will be targets for our attacks."

On February 27, Islamic Jihad gave French troops a week to leave Lebanon. The ultimatum expired yesterday.

Well informed sources here said the French authorities were taking the threats very seriously and were expecting some "very unpleasant surprises". Preventive measures are being stepped up and security arrangements being made in preparation for the day not far off when the French troops do move out.

The Shi'ite militia Amal, which has seized control of west Beirut, has said it will do all it can to prevent attacks against French soldiers. The Druze Progressive Socialist Party, through a close aide of party leader Walid Junblatt, has also said the opposition will contribute to the "movement or the departure of the French in friendship and dignity".

Rocket Damages Empty Embassy

NC062056 Paris AFP in English 037 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Beirut, March 6 (AFP) — A rocket exploded inside the French Embassy compound in West Beirut late today, damaging an empty building without causing casualties. This was the third attack on the main French compound since Thursday.

Earlier today the extremist organisation Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the two previous attacks, including one on Thursday during a visit to Beirut by French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson. The Islamic Jihad has also claimed respon sibility for a rocket attack on Monday on the headquarters of the French Military Contingent in Beirut, in which a French soldier was killed.

The Islamic Jihad organisation is demanding the immediate withdrawal of the French contingent.

AFP: Libya Said To Offer Al-Jumayyil Troops
NC061358 Paris AFP in English 1351 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Beirut, March 6 (AFP) — Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi offered to put Libyan troops in Lebanon at the disposal of President Amin al-Jumayyil, a Lebanese diplomatic source said here today. Several hundred Libyan troops have been stationed in the central Lebanese Al-Biqa' plain, close to the Syrian border, since 1982.

Lebanon "froze" diplomatic relations with Libya in November because it refused to withdraw its troops from Lebanon.

After yesterday's announcement of the abrogation of the May 1983 Lebanese-Israeli accord, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said: "After succeeding in dragging (Ronald) Reagan through the dust, we must get ready for the next battle against the Zionist enemy to chase him out of southern Lebanon".

Israeli Officers Inspect New Lines in South
NC070834 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] According to reports from southern Lebanon, several high-ranking Israeli officers, led by the chief of staff, recently inspected the new positions where the Israeli forces will be deployed in the strategic areas in the south. Although the expected Israeli partial withdrawal has not been officially announced, it appears that the withdrawal will not extend beyond the Az-Zahrani area because many of the new Israeli positions have been designated in the villages extending along this line from the coast up to the mountains' summit. The same applies to the Abu al-Aswad line which extends through Ansar, Ad-Duwayr, and An-Nabatiyah.

Israeli Forces Raid Qana Town in South
NC062020 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Excerpt] A new martyr has joined the caravan of martyrs who have fallen in defense of the south. The martyr was 14-year-old Khidr Ghadbun. He fell in Qana today when the inhabitants resisted an Israeli patrol which tried to raid the township. The patrol opened fire indiscriminately hitting Khidr, who died. It also injured many inhabitants. Martyr Khidr was buried at 1600 amid an Israeli military cordon around the township.

A spokesman for the UN forces in the south referred to what happened in the township saying: Immediately after he was hit, the UN Emergency Force transported Martyr Khidr in a helicopter to the UN Forces hospital in An-Naqurah, but he soon died. The spokesman did not refer to the reasons for what happened in Qana, saying that there is ambiguity about what happened in this township.

The Israeli enemy's forces were not content with their ugly crime. After this crime, they arrested several people from Qana and Qulaylah.

Beirut Reports on Explosion in Sidon
NC061516 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] At 1530 today, an explosive device went off near Dr Ilyas Ilya's Hospital in Sidon-Jazzin Street [in Sidon]. The target was an Israeli patrol. Consequently, the Israeli enemy forces cordoned off the place. Accompanied by police dogs, they cut off roads leading to the site of the explosion and carried out a combing operation. Israeli ambulances were seen rushing to the scene of the incident. A helicopter was also seen hovering over the site. In the meantime, heavy machine gun fire was heard. Dense columns of smoke were seen billowing from the explosion area.

RFL Reports on Power Struggle in Syria
NC070707 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Two important developments have emerged in Syria which may directly or indirectly affect the Lausanne meeting: the resignation of the Syrian Government and the designation of Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf Al-Kasm to head the present government, and the grouping of the Palestinian dissidents in Dar'a on the Jordanian-Syrian border at a time when the Husayn-'Arafat talks are going on.

It has become evident that the resignation of the Syrian Government was the fruit of a power struggle that erupted a while ago between Rif'at al-Asad and the Syrian Government in the wake of promotions and appointments affecting Syrian officers. It has been learned that Rif'at al-Asad wanted to expel a number of officers and appoint others to key posts, but his demands were not heeded by the Syrian Government. This prompted him to intensify the presence of the Defense Squads in Damascus, including tanks and roadblocks.

The information adds that Rif'at al-Asad had sought to cut Mustafa Talas, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, and Hikmat ash-Shihabi down to size. All endeavors to resolve this dispute failed. This led to the resignation of the government.

RFL: Envoy to Argentina Hands in Resignation
NC062104 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Edmond Khayyat, Lebanon's ambassador to Argentina, said a short while ago that he has resigned his post because he opposes the policy pursued by the Lebanese Government. Ambassador Khayyat added that he tendered his resignation the last week of February because he opposes the policy of President Amin al-Jumayyil which led him to visit Syria and meet with President al-Asad.

Ambassador Khayyat criticized the Lebanese Government's decision abrogating the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, saying that Lebanon must not hold negotiations with Syria before Damascus officially recognizes Lebanon's independence. Khayyat emphasized that Lebanon has never been and will never become an Arab state.

RFL: Arens' Visit to Forces Command Denied

NC061228 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] A responsible source in the Lebanese resistance has denied that Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens visited Beirut yesterday and met with the Lebanese Forces Command. Reports had earlier said that Israel is committed to defending the Christian people and to preventing Syrians and Palestinians from going beyond certain political points. Reports added that Israel is ready to interfere with aircraft and artillery in the event of attacks on the Christian front opposing the abrogation of the 17 May accord.

VOL: Source Denies Salim Requested Meeting

NC061244 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] A diplomatic source disclosed today that Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim on Friday asked the U.S. ambassador in Beirut to arrange an urgent consultation among the Lebanese, Israeli, and U.S. sides to discuss the difficulties facing the implementation of the May accord. This was in accordance with a message Minister Salim had forwarded to then U.S. envoy Philip Habib. The message said: If Israel does not withdraw from Lebanese territory, Lebanon considers the accord null and void. The source added that the Lebanese demand elicited no response from the U.S. side.

This explanation was made by the diplomatic source following a report broadcast by the IDF radio yesterday that Minister Salim had met with the Israeli charge d'affaires in Beirut. [as heard] Salim reportedly asked him to conduct talks with Israel to work out new security arrangements in the south. The source categorically denied the report.

Al-Asad Designates Al-Kasm To Form New Cabinet

JN062137 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus — President Hafiz al-Asad has designated Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm, Ba'th Party Regional Command member, to form the new government. Al-Asad had accepted the resignation of the Cabinet that was headed by Dr al-Kasm. He thanked Al-Kasm and the Cabinet members for their efforts and work.

Ba'th Party Statement on 17 May Agreement

JN062232 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] The National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party issued a statement today on the occasion of the abrogation of the 17 May agreement. It stressed that the decision to abrogate the agreement was a victory for the Lebanese people, land, and Arabism and a victory for Syria and all Arabs. It also places Lebanon on the right course toward ending the tragedy that has engulfed it for many years.

The National Command's statement stressed that the agreement, which was a result of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, was stillborn because a number of new developments transpired after it was signed, and its abrogation inevitable. The foremost of these developments was the escalation of the firm popular rejection of this agreement. This was accompanied by a similar escalation in the Lebanese national resistance operations against the Zionist and Western presence represented by the Multinational Force. This is in addition to the prominent role of the Lebaese nationalist forces. The real victories they have achieved, especially recently, have had the greatest effect in foiling the wager on the United States, on the multinational forces' role, and on their inability to carry out this agreement.

The statement said that among the important facts was the steadfast Syrian stand — a stand that faces U.S. agression, rejects the 17 May agreement, and supports the Lebanese nationalist forces and people as well as their objectives toward the unity of Lebanon's land, independence, and affiliation to the Arab nation.

The statement adds that the abrogation of the agreement of submission is the beginning of the national and pan-Arab upsurge in Lebanon. This was a natural response to the Lebanese people's will, with all their factions, group, and political and popular forces. It also constitutes the most important step on the road to constructive and effective dialogue based on the interests of Lebanon and its people for any future action.

The statement concludes by stressing that the abrogation of the agreement was considered the end of one stage and the beginning of a new, one that requires awareness and action because the conspiracies and dangers will increase in the coming days. Syria, as always, will resiliently defend itself, the people of Lebanon, and the Arab nation. Syria will respond to any possible aggression, whatever its size or source, and will remain committed to its basic principles in what is going on in the region of conflict between us and Zionism and its allies. Syria's pan-Arab stand by the Lebanese Arab people and its progressive national forces in their battle to achieve their objectives of the independence of Lebanon, the unity of its lands, its sovereignty, and Arabism. [sentence as heard]

Further Details

JN060719 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus — The Ba'th Party National Command has affirmed that the abrogation of the 17 May agreement is further proof that Syria's pan-Arab course is the course of Arab victory and that the fall of the contract of submission is the fall of U.S. plans of submission and the wagering on the U.S. role.

In a statement issued today, the Ba'th Party National Command said that this agreement was one of the consequences of the Zionist invasion and an attempt to push the Arabs into signing unilateral deals, as it did with As-Sadat, and to expand the Camp David arena of submission in order to impose hegemony on and expansion in Arab territory. The statement noted the following facts which emerged after the agreement was signed:

1. The firm popular rejection of this agreement in Lebanon and the Arab homeland.

2. The escalation of the Lebanese nationalist resistance operations against the Zionist invasion troops and the NATO forces. These operations will be pursued until the last soldier of the Zionist invasion forces withdraws.

3. The cohesion of the nationalist forces against the Zionist invaders, and the emergence of the Lebanese National Salvation Front and its alliance with the Amal Movement's forces to confront occupation and hegemony. The Lebanese people succeeded in this confrontation.

4. The fall of the wagering on the U.S. and NATO role and the inability of the United States and the Zionist enemy to implement the agreement.

5. The most important fact being Syria's steadfast stand against U.S. aggression and the 17 May agreement. This stand supports Lebanon's people and forces in their adherence to Lebanon's unity and Arabism.

The statement said that all these facts have had an effective influence on the Lebanese Government's conviction of the inevitability of abrogating this agreement and its consequences. This abrogation took place in response to the Lebanese people's desires and ambitions toward restoring the Lebanese dialogue and national reconciliation.

The statement noted that comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Ba'th Party and president of the republic, explained during his meeting with Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil Syria's stand and determination to abrogate the agreement. It added that the decision to abrogate the agreement is an historical event because it represents a real victory for Lebanon's land and people as well as for Arabism. This decision has also placed Lebanon on the correct path to end its tragedy.

The statement added that while the agreement constituted an obstacle to the sincere efforts to save Lebanon, the decision to abrogate the agreement marked the beginning of an increase in national and pan-Arab commitment and a more significant step on the path of Lebanon's future and interests. It also affirmed that the fall of the contract of submission constitutes a setback to the capitulatory Camp David course; a fact which proves that Al-Asad's leadership in the battle of steadfastness and confrontation has comprehended the constant and changeable facts and asserted the heroism of our Armed Forces and the sacrifices of brother Lebanese people, supported by the friends in the world, particularly the USSR.

The statement said that this victory will have a deep effect on the whole Arab land because it is the beginning of the end of the imperialist-Zionist-U.S. plans and a big stride on the path to Arab victory.

The statement stressed the need to be cautious toward escalated U.S.-Zionist plotting following the fall of the 17 May agreement and said that Syria, as it has always been doing, will defend itself, the Lebanese people, and the Arab nation. Syria will repel any aggression, regardless of its size or source. The statement added that the Ba'th Party and its revolution in Syria, led by comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, will remain faithful to its principles, firm in its principled national policy, and committed to the struggle of the Palestinian people under the PLO leadership in order to achieve their objectives toward returning to their homeland and establishing their independent state on their national soil.

Damascus Reports Saudi King Congratulatory Call

JN062250 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2215 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia has telephoned President Hafiz al-Asad, congratulating him on the success that was achieved by abrogating the 17 May agreement. He affirmed that this abrogation constitutes a big victory for the entire Arab nation. Al-Asad thanked the Saudi monarch, and asserted to him that this victory is the victory of all Arabs.

Al-Ahmar Receives Somali Delegation 6 Mar

JN061953 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus — Comrade Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, met this afternoon with a delegation from the Somali Salvation Front [SSF] led by Brother Umar Muhammad Hasan, deputy leader of the Front. The delegation was comprised of a number of SSF commanders. The director of the SSF office in Damascus was also present. On behalf of the SSF leadership and the Somali people, the delegation expressed warm congratulations on the pan-Arab victory that has been achieved by the heroic struggle of the Arab people of Lebanon and Syria against the United States, Israel, and their agents in the region.

Comrade al-Ahmar told the Somali delegation about the developments of the situation in the region following the important pan-Arab achievement reached by the national steadfastness of Syria under the leadership of comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the party, in opposing the U.S. and Zionist policy aimed at subjecting, subduing, and forcing the Arab nation to capitulate; liquidating the cause of the Palestinian people; and imposing hegemony over the Arab land and Arab resources.

Damascus on Domestic, Foreign Support for Al-Asad

JN070843 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0810 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus, 7 Mar (SANA) — President Hafiz al-Asad has received a large number of cables from within and outside Syria and from the fraternal Arab states congratulating him and the Arab nation on the great victory that has been realized over imperialism and Zionism by the abrogation of the 17 May agreement. The cables hailed Syria's steadfastness under President Hafiz al-Asad who defeated the plot, delivered Lebanon, and inspired hope in the Arab nation's masses from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arab Gulf. The cables affirmed that the cancellation of the agreement of submission constitutes a victory for the Arab nation against imperialism and Zionism, and a clear proof that Syria, led by the Ba'th Party and its secretary general, President Hafiz al-Asad, will remain the rock on which the forces that are hostile to our people will founder. The cables pledged to the president that they will continue to march behind his wise leadership until the entire Arab land is liberated.

Damascus Cites Reaction to Treaty Abrogation

JN070739 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Reactions to Lebanon's decision to abrogate the 17 May agreement continued today on both the Arab and international levels. In a statement today, PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril stressed that the 17 May agreement was foiled due to the stand of the Syrian leadership that was firmly set against this ill-omened agreement and gave all forms of support for the nationalist forces in Lebanon. Jibril said that the abrogation of this ill-omened agreement has foiled the U.S. colonialist program and destroyed the Zionist dream of imposing capitulation on the Arab nation. He said that this also blocked the way for 'Arafat and the king of Jordan to hold negotiations with the Zionist enemy on the basis of the Reagan plan and the autonomy talks. He stressed that the abrogation of the agreement has foiled all the attempts to strip Lebanon of its Arab nature and to tie it to the wheels of the Zionist enemy. It also opened the way for abrogating the Camp David agreements.

For his part, 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, official spokesman for the Executive Committee of the PLO, stressed that the abrogation of the 17 May agreement is a victory for the Lebanese people and for the triangle of Arab-Syria, Palestinian, and Lebanese nationalist steadfastness under the leadership of Syria and its struggler President Hafiz al-Asad. In a press statement today in reply to questions by reporters, Abu Mayzar said that the abrogation of the agreement constitutes a firm response to the feverish and suspect attempts that aim to push Jordan and some Palestinian elements to deal with the U.S. settlement plan that aims at entrenching the occupation and liquidating the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable national rights. Abu Mayzar continued by saying that this historical victory was an incentive to Egypt, its people, and its Army to abrogate the Camp David accords which had stabbed the Palestinian cause in the heart. Abu Mayzar said that abrogating the 17 May agreement was a second defeat for the imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary plan after the defeat of the Marines and the NATO multinational forces in Lebanon.

Khalid 'Abd al-Majid, member of the PLO Central Council and the Political Bureau of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, stressed that the abrogation of the 17 May agreement is a great victory for the Lebanese people and the Arab nation which have refused to succumb to imperialist and Zionist plans. In a press statement today, 'Abd al-Majid explained that this great victory would not have been achieved had it not been for the great help from steadfast Syria, which is the beating heart of Arabism. He pointed out that the abrogation of this agreement is a great defeat for and a complete failure of the U.S. and Zionist policy. 'Abd al-Majid concluded by stressing that our people and revolution, which are united with the forces of Arab steadfastness, foremost of which is Syria and the Lebanese national forces, will be able to foil all the capitulatory and defeatist attempts.

ATH-THAWRAH on Strategic Triumph in Lebanon

JN070819 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0735 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus, 7 Mar (SANA) — The newspaper *ATH-THAWRAH* has said that the abrogation of the 17 May agreement is a cancellation of the U.S. Middle East policy, and that the current concern that grips White House circles can only be explained as being a sort of tacit admission of the seriousness of the situation. In its editorial today under the headline "The Impending Collapse," *ATH-THAWRAH* said that the large scale reverberations and reactions to the abrogation of the agreement have proved that Syrian policy has realized a strategic victory in Lebanon, the region, and the entire world. It has been proven that Syria is the main factor in the Middle East situation and that any agreement or solution that Syria does not approve will be doomed to failure.

ATH-THAWRAH said that such a result would not have been realized if Syria had not adhered to the decision of steadfastness and confrontation, and if it had not firmly insisted on facing the challenges and the various plots. The paper said that Syria is well aware that the U.S. and Israeli defeat will prompt both to plan retaliation and aggression. Therefore, Syria will take the necessary measures to protect this great triumph and help the Lebanese people exploit its results in strengthening Lebanese national unity, independence, and sovereignty.

TISHRIN on Surian Triumph, Egyptian People's Hope

JN070900 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0824 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus, 7 Mar (SANA) — Commenting on the abrogation of the 17 May agreement, *TISHRIN* said today that this abrogation was a victory for the path of the March revolution and a strengthening of Syria's role in the life of the Arab nation and its struggle against its enemies. The paper said that the agreement has fallen forever and that the U.S. and Zionist plotters will not be able to repeat their attempts after their abject failure and utter defeat. They will be satisfied with prolonging the Camp David agreements and prevent them from meeting the same fate.

The paper said that Syria's triumph in the battle of abrogating the agreement will be an asset for the struggle waged by the fraternal Egyptian people and the Arab masses to foil the agreements of shame and humiliation, especially since the black anniversary 2 weeks from now of the signing of the Camp David documents of surrender to the Zionist enemy by the Egyptian regime.

The paper said that the hopes of the Egyptian people have been revived by the abrogation of the 17 May agreement — a triumph that has been realized through Syria's struggle and its strong relations with the Lebanese people. The paper added that Syria's struggle and its triumphs in the battle to preserve the pan-Arab identity of every Arab country stems from the spirit of the March revolution, which represents the Arab nation's conscience, its reverberating voice, and capable arm. Concluding its comment, *TISHRIN* says: Syria will continue to adhere to the March revolution's spirit and path so that the Arab nation can realize its clear victory over the Zionist enemy and its imperialist supporters, to establish the greater Arab nation, and restore the Arabs' glorious history and great cultural past.

AL-BA'TH Sees Beginning of Camp David's Fall

JN070921 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0745 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Damascus, 7 Mar (SANA) — *AL-BA'TH* asserts Syria's determination to confront all forms of pressure that obstruct its moves aimed at unifying Arab efforts to achieve victory for our nation and for Arab rights. In its editorial today under the headline "What Comes After the Fall of the 17 May Agreement," *AL-BA'TH* says: Since the steadfastness of Syria and the Lebanese nationalist forces was able to abort the May agreement, this proves that if the Arab nation closes its ranks and devotes all its potentials to regaining territory and dignity, such an objective is by no means impossible.

AL-BA'TH notes that the Zionist enemy, which made some Arabs believe that it cannot be confronted or defeated, is now worried that the fall of the 17 May agreement will be the beginning of a move by the masses of Arab Egypt to foil the Camp David accords which were the main reason behind Lebanon's tragedy.

AL-BA'TH continues: The collapse of the agreement of submission is not the end, but a practical beginning to regain all the Arab rights, and to assert the inevitability of our triumph. This is because in Syria we proceed from firm pan-Arab principles which we cannot relinquish. Events have proven that this stand is correct. *AL-BA'TH* concludes: Unifying Arab efforts will begin in the next round of the Lebanese national dialogue conference. After that conference, we will find ourselves before a new Arab reality from which we will proceed to demolish our nation's silence and capitulation in order to achieve our pan-Arab objective — the liberation of all Arab soil from occupation.

Explosion Occurs on Ashdod Bus 7 March

TA070751 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0745 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] The explosion in Ashdod: The spokesman of the southern district of the police force, Superintendent Moshe (Retzon-Droni), has told us that two people were killed in the terrorist attack that occurred this morning in a passenger bus in Ashdod. Other passengers were wounded in the explosion and they are now being transferred to hospitals.

The explosive charge went off inside a No 9 bus on its way from the market to the town center. The charge exploded at a time when the bus was beside the Ashdod central bus station, in the center of Quarter 'D'. Police are on the spot.

Suspects Arrested

TA070844 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0834 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Excerpt] The police have arrested several minorities who were in the region of the attack against a No 9 passenger bus in Ashdod. The police have closed off the Ashdod market area, and combing operations are now being carried out. Roadblocks have also been erected at the exits from the town.

We reported that two people were killed in the explosion of the device on the bus. Several other passengers were wounded slightly or moderately. The wounded have been transferred to the Barzilav Hospital in Ashqelon and Kaplan in Rehovot.

Report on Casualties

TA070937 Tel Aiv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0932 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Here is an update on the condition of the people wounded in the attack against the bus in Ashdod: Seven wounded are now hospitalized in the Kaplan Hospital, Rehovot. One women is seriously wounded. Three wounded are in the Ashqelon Barzilay Hospital. One man has moderate wounds, and two women who were slightly wounded will soon be sent to their homes. A man and a woman were killed in the Ashdod bus attack.

Death Toll at Three

TA071320 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] One of the wounded in the Ashdod terrorist attack has died in the Kaplan Hospital in Rehovot. This brings the number of dead in the attack to three. Before this it was reported that a man and woman from Ashdod were killed in the explosion. Another eight persons were wounded in the attack, three of whom have already been sent home. Our correspondent Moshe Halevi reports that the wounded are hospitalized in the Kaplan Hospital in Rehovot, and the Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon. The condition of four of the wounded was described as fair.

Levi Discusses Abrogation With Lebanese Christians

TA061133 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] The abrogation of the Israeli-Lebanese accord is a grave act, but it will mainly harm Lebanon's sovereignty; Israel knows how to maintain its security. This was stated by Deputy Prime Minister David Levi in a talk with our political correspondent. Today, David Levi met with a delegation of heads of churches from southern Lebanon, who asked for continued cooperation with Israel. Our correspondent 'Oz Frankel brings us the remarks of the deputy prime minister:

[Begin recording] [Levi] The annulment of the agreement is a grave act. In my opinion it primarily harms the Lebanese, since we will guarantee our own security. We do not need anybody's accord or consent for this. Lebanon's sovereignty is definitely damaged. The dependence of the Lebanese regime on Syria will increase. Israel takes a grave view of this. As for the measures warranted for maintaining security, Israel will act according to its own decisions.

[Frankel] Should we not then expect an IDF redeployment in southern Lebanon soon?

[Levi] This will be decided by the government. [end recording]

Levi on Negotiations Proposal

TA061607 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister David Levi by 'Oz Frankel — date and place not given]

[Excerpt][Frankel] Mr Deputy Prime Minister, the Lebanese are suggesting negotiations on a new agreement, on new security arrangements in in southern Lebanon. Is there a chance that Israel would at some time agree to this request and would return to the negotiations table with the Lebanese Government?

[Levi] One cannot talk in general terms. The conditions change, and in our area very rapidly. How can Israel sit down with Lebanon, which would have to have Al-Asad's okay at every step along the way? Or, can Israel wait for an answer while Lebanon goes to Damascus or Al-Asad's representative comes to Beirut? This is the question. Israel has never surrendered to dictates, and its political-security strategy is decided upon only by itself.

[Frankel] David Levi expressed hope that the United States would learn the lesson of the abrogated agreement. He said that Washington was misled about the Syrian's willingness to compromise. The Syrians did not and do not want security arrangements, says Levi. When will the government decide upon the next moves? The deputy prime minister will not commit himself. He warns against the thought of partitioning Lebanon, and maintains that Syria will continue to get entangled there, as it has done in the past.

[Levi] Concerning zones of influence, let no one delude himself. Such things have been known to happen in the past. It is by no means certain that Syria's achievements will continue to be strengthened in harmony and with everybody's agreement. With our knowledge of Lebanon, and especially of what Syria has had to endure and the price it has paid, it is easy to imagine what it will have to endure and what price it will have to pay in the future. [end recording]

Government Rejection of New Lebanon Talks Reported

JN061052 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 5 Mar 84

[From "With the Events" program]

[Text] We begin with the Israeli Government's official reaction to Lebanon's abrogation of the 17 May 1983 agreement. This reaction came in a statement by Avi Pazner, the spokesman of the prime minister. Our political correspondent Dov Rabinovich reports.

[Begin recording] The Israeli reaction came in an official statement made by Avi Pazner, the prime minister's adviser on information affairs. The statement says: The 17 May 1983 agreement was reached through free negotiations between two states with the participation of the United States. The agreement was ratified by the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies, thus expressing Lebanon's sovereignty and independence. This agreement came to usher in a new era in Lebanese-Israeli relations and to ensure the minimum of security arrangements for Israel and the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Lebanon.

Pazner added in his statement: Syria has proved to be the obstacle to Lebanon's independence and to the efforts to expand the peace process in the Middle East. Immediately upon the signing of the 17 May agreement, Syria began its efforts to foil this agreement by means of violence. Syria forced Lebanon to submit to its diktat thus eliminating Lebanon's independence and sovereignty. Israel denounces the abrogation of the agreement and Syrian interference.

The statement adds: In view of Lebanon's inability to fulfill its international obligations and to prevent southern Lebanon from becoming a terrorist base against Israel, Israel will find the adequate means to guarantee its own security.

Pazner concluded his statement by saying: Despite what has happened, Israel will continue to harbor feelings of friendship for the Lebanese people, especially the friends with whom Israel has had strong ties for a long time. Israel hopes that Lebanon will be able to regain its sovereignty and free itself from Syrian enslavement. It is ready even now to implement the 17 May agreement.

Pazner affirmed that Israel is absolutely against any negotiations to replace the 17 May agreement by another agreement with Lebanon.

I have learned that the Lebanese Government had recently requested the Israeli Government to begin talks along the lines of the talks which preceded the Lebanese-Israeli agreement last May. However, Israel completely rejected this idea. [end recording]

The statement made by the prime minister's spokesman says that Israel harbors love and friendship for the Lebanese people, especially those friends with whom it has had strong ties for a long time.

In the meantime, political sources in the capital, Jerusalem, have expressed the belief that Israel will in the end agree to holding negotiations with Lebanon to reach security arrangements in the south despite the wave of resentment, disappointment, and strong reactions aroused by the abrogation of the agreement in Jerusalem.

Kimche Warns Syrians Against Confrontation

TA061211 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] In Jerusalem, Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche warned that if the Syrians encourage the terrorists to reinfiltrate into southern Lebanon, Israel will not hesitate to act. Interviewed on the BBC, Kimche pointed out that Israel has attacked terrorist bases in the Al-Biqa' valley which is under Syrian control. He was asked if Syria might try to exploit the situation and move toward a confrontation with Israel:

[Begin Kimche recording] Well, I think he would be making a terrible mistake if he did try to do that. We have been trying to achieve peace and stability and quiet, and we have not wanted to escalate or have any confrontation, but that should not be construed by him or by anybody else as a sign of weakness. If he did try to come into confrontation with us, I think he would learn very very quickly what a mistake he is making. [end recording]

Al-Asad Orders Terrorists to Syria-Jordan Border

TA061740 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1732 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Here is a report which has just arrived in the studio: Large units of terrorists, both those who rebelled against 'Arafat and members of the pro-Syrian organizations, have in the last few days gathered along the Syrian-Jordanian border within Syrian territory, near the town of Dar'a. These terrorists belong to the units which fought in Tripoli. Our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a reports that they were moved to the Jordanian border on the instructions of President al-Asad, who is seeking to torpedo any possible rapprochement between 'Arafat and King Husayn.

Defense Minister Arens Visits Sidon 6 March

TA061638 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1615 GMT 6 Mar 84

["Defense Ministry spokesman's announcement: The Defense Minister Visited Sidon" — ITIM headline]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 6 Mar (ITIM) — "I came here to express my appreciation and gratitude to you for your recent activities within the jurisdiction of the city of Sidon," Defense Minister Moshe Arens today told paratroopers there.

The defense minister called on paratrooper units which have recently been successful in foiling and reducing the number of terrorist attacks within the jurisdiction of the city of Sidon.

"While the U.S. Marines may go back home, 10,000 miles from here, as far as we are concerned the campaign is being conducted here and we must choose whether we want to conduct it here or in the Galilee," the defense minister stated.

The minister called on the soldiers to be fully alert to take care of themselves and their security and to ensure that we gain the upper hand in this campaign. The defense minister was accompanied by Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Moshe Levi and IDF commanders in the region during the visit.

Arens on New Talks

TA061939 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by military correspondent Moshe Shlonsky during former's visit to Sidon on 6 March — videotaped]

[Text] [Shlonsky] Yesterday the Lebanese Government abrogated the agreement with Israel but may be proposing alternative security arrangements. Will the Israeli Government comply with the Lebanese request for alternative security arrangements in place of the agreement?

[Arens] At this point I have not yet heard about any proposal for alternative security arrangements. We have not made a rule for ourselves that we should not conduct any contacts with Arab countries. There are Arab countries that declare they are in a state of war with us, other than countries such as Lebanon which signed an agreement and has now abrogated it. We have not set a rule that we should not conduct contacts with them; we will see.

[Shlonsky] Does the abrogation imply the acceleration of the IDF's departure from Lebanon? How does it affect the current IDF deployment?

[Arens] At this point I would not say that it has had any effect at all. We have set ourselves a rule that our departure depends on security arrangements which give us some reasonable security that the peace which has prevailed in the Galilee for 1 and 1/2 years will continue.

Minister Pat Returns From U.S., FRG, Romania Visits

TA051543 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1430 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Ben-Gurion Airport, 5 Mar (ITIM) — The talks on an agreement to establish a free trade zone between Israel and the United States are progressing as planned, Industry and Commerce Minister Gid'on Pat said today upon his return from the United States.

"I believe we will sign the agreement even this year; by 1985 we will already be able to enjoy the fruits that it will yield," the minister said. In reply to questions, he said that in the talks Israel insisted on observing the vital interests of Israeli industry, but will be prepared to adapt itself to the demands of what is termed "the subsidies code," which applies to the trade relations the United States has with other industrialized countries. At the same time there is no explicit demand that Israel abolish all export subsidies as part of the agreement.

The next round of talks will be held on 21 March in Washington and the Israeli delegation will stay there 3 days to promote the matter. The U.S. industrialists object to that accord, but so far no opposition has been demonstrated by the giant U.S. industries. But here, too, some industrialists have expressed their reservations about the plan, the minister pointed out.

Mr Pat arrived in the U.S. following a visit to Romania, where he discussed the possibility of tripling the scope of trade in both directions with the aim of increasing Israeli exports to Romania to $100 million in 3 years, but limiting imports from there to goods worth $200 million. Israel explained that it is only a small market and cannot absorb such a volume of imports from Romania, but it is prepared to serve as a middleman to transfer a large bulk of those imports to other countries. The Israeli trade delegation that accompanied the minister during his visit to Romania brought with them purchase orders for $40 million in goods intended for sale to foreign countries — not Israel.

This was Mr Pat's first visit to Romania, and in his meeting with President Nicolae Ceausescu they discussed primarily the political matters that pertain to our region, and each one explained his positions. Mr Pat's impression was that Ceausescu is interested in promoting commerce with Israel, and heard from him and his other hosts that Romania is a bit concerned about the development of Israel's commercial ties with other East European countries. "These ties, including countries with which we have no diplomatic relations, bother the Romanians; but I rejected out of hand any attempt to tie our hands in that respect," the minister said.

On his way to the United States, the minister spent a day in Hamburg, where he held meetings with representatives of some 150 large German firms and investors who met there with the representatives of Israeli industry — as part of the preparations for the economic conference from which Israel has great expectations. This time the conference will be attended mainly by industrialists and non-Jewish investors. Germany will be represented by some 40 industrialists of the first order, and some 180 to 200 U.S. industrialists are also expected to come.

Minister Pat To Visit Cairo Fair 9 March

TA061026 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 6 Mar 84 p 2

[Report by Ya'aqov Erez]

[Text] Minister of Commerce and Industry Gid'on Pat has been invited by the Egyptian Government to visit the industrial fair that is to open in Cairo at the end of this week, and he intends to accept the invitation. Israel regards this invitation as important, especially in view of the cooling in relations between Egypt and Israel. Minister Pat intends to go to Egypt on Friday, 9 March, and will spend 2 days there.

MK Porat, Tehiya, Resigning From Knesset

TA050631 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Knesset Member Hanan Porat is resigning from the Knesset. Last night the handed over his letter of resignation to his two colleagues in the Tehiya Party, Prof Yuval Ne'eman and Knesset Member Ge'ula Kohen. They will submit it to the speaker of the Knesset, Menahem Savidor. Porat has been negotiating with Dr Yosef Burg and other leaders of the National Religious Party for the establishment of a broadly based religious party. However, the Gush Emunim settlement movement said last night that it disagreed with Porat's move and will continue to support the rightwing Tehiya Party.

MK's Seek New Party

TA050726 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Mar 84 p 3

[Report by political correspondent Sarah Honig]

[Excerpt] Tel Aviv — The strife-torn National Religious Party [NRP] was shaken again yesterday, when it became known that the lamifne faction, headed by Interior Minister Yosef Burg, is seeking to set up a new NRP with the help of Tehiya MK Hanan Porat and MATZAD [Zionist Religious Camp] MK Hayim Druckman.

All sides stressed that such contacts are merely preliminary, and Porat has vowed to return his mandate to Tehiya and resign from the Knesset should he decide to switch political allegiances.

Lamifne's rival faction, headed by Education Minister Zvulun Hammer, had not been informed of the plan for the "new party." The entire episode, say NRP insiders, might serve to speed up processes already working to split the party.

Sources in all NRP factions admit that the courtship of Porat, Druckman and other former NRP members, including the breakaway TAMI Party, are all maneuvers in the internal battle between the two large factions for control of the party. If lamifne succeeds in returning defectors to the party, this might force Hammer and his followers to break away from the NRP and set up their own version of a "new NRP."

Porat said he is not considering returning to the NRP but might join an effort to rebuild the national-religious movement, with a change of emphasis and an entirely new leadership.

This, he said, would attract many more of the religious voters in the party to a nationalist banner, which would sponsor a policy similar to that of Tehiya.

"I am tormented by the crisis in the national-religious movement and am definitely not in any way dissatisfied with Tehiya," Porat said.

"Its foundations and the partnership it initiated between religious and secular members is as sound as ever. If I will indeed decide eventually that I can help rehabilitate the religious movement and that we can set up a new NRP, I will draw the necessary conclusions and return my mandate to Tehiya," said Porat.

Levinger, Others Resigning

TA050948 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Several members of the Gush Emunim secretariat are to resign from the Tehiya movement together with Hanan Porat. Among those who are to resign from the movement are Rabbi Moshe Levinger from Qiryat Arba'. Other members of the secretariat will not resign. However, our correspondent reports that rank and file Gush Emunim members support Porat's and Levinger's approach. When Porat's resignation from the Knesset takes effect, Tzvi Shiloah from the Tehiya faction is supposed to replace him. However, our correspondent Shalom Oren says that 6 months ago an agreement was signed according to which Shiloah will concede his place and Gershon Shafat will enter the Knesset instead. Our correspondent adds that from contacts with the NRP, it seems that Minister Hammer will soon join the talks on a new religious party.

Two Soldiers Injured in Ramallah 5 March

TA051559 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1545 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Jerusalem, 5 Mar (ITIM) — Two soldiers were slightly injured today when stones were thrown at them in Ramallah. By this afternoon, 13 incidents of stones being thrown at Israeli civilian cars in the Ramallah District were registered; in some cases the cars' windshields were smashed. Security forces rushed to the place to disperse the stone-throwers and two soldiers were injured in the course of that operation. Security forces have detained five people suspected of violating the public order and throwing stones. Security sources link the heated atmosphere in Ramallah to the attack on the bus yesterday in which six Arab workmen were injured. The sources added that for some time now agitation could be observed in the Ramallah college against the background of the dispute among the various PLO factions, and this could have an effect on the atmosphere on the man in the street as well.

Shamir Denounces 4 Mar Attack on Arab Bus

TA061942 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said he has no words to denounce the shooting at the Arab bus and the planned attack on Temple Mount. Our correspondent Yisra'el Segal reports that the prime minister received regular reports on the course of the investigation and that he praised the security forces for their actions.

Three Suspects in Arab Bus Attack Released

TA061139 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] The Jerusalem magistrate's court is now discussing the police request that the detention of four suspects in the affair of the Ramallah bus attack be extended. Our correspondent Avshalom Ginosar reports that three of the suspects were released yesterday, before they were brought before a justice.

The attorney of three of the detained suspects, Me'ir Schechter, said he will ask the court to rescind an order which has so far forbade him from meeting with the detainees.

'Campaign of Slander' Charged

TA061229 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Our correspondent Shalom Oren has been informed by the Council of Settlements in Judaea and Samaria that not a single one of the detainees in the Ramallah bus attack case lives in a settlement beyond the Green Line. The reports in this respect, says council head Yisra'el Har'el, are blood libel:

[Begin Har'el recording] I believe that for years a campaign of slander has been going on, and it is working on the subconscious. Everything that happens sets the subconscious working in the direction of the settlements. [end recording]

Kahana Defends Jewish Attacks

TA061926 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The police believe they have made a breakthrough in recent cases of attacks by Jewish extremists on Arabs. They are holding four U.S. citizens in connection with the ambush on Sunday of an Arab bus in Ramallah, all according to the Army radio, members of Me'ir Kahana's KAKH Movement.

Three others were reportedly released for lack of evidence. The police have also arrested a third suspect in connection with last January's planned attack on the Temple Mount.

Rabbi Me'ir Kahana denies initiating the attacks but he admits that the four detained Americans are members of his group. He told reporter Jerry Cheslow that he would finance their legal aid and he in no way condemned what they have done.

[Begin recording] [Kahana] The attacks by Arabs upon Jews constantly is a thing against which vengeance must be taken. Now, I have pleaded with the members of KAKH not to take such actions but not because it's a bad thing but because they have no support, it's a suicidal thing. But, whoever does it certainly is committing an act of sanctification in God's name.

[Cheslow] Are you not in fact inciting to murder?

[Kahana] When Samson — and every youngster here learns about Samson — was besieged by the Jews in Judaea and said: Why do you do these things to the Philistines? Do you not know that you harm us when you are murdering? He gave a simple answer: That which they did unto me I did unto them. I can't understand the apathy, the indifference over the murder of Aharon Gross [about 1 year ago in Hebron].

[Cheslow] So you set yourself up as judge and executioner?

[Kahana] I set myself up as a rabbi.

[Cheslow] You say that the Israeli Government would throw them in jail. But what do you expect from a government that is ruled by law?

[Kahana] I would expect that it should get up and say: We understand what these youngsters do but we won't let them do it. Instead, we'll take the Arabs, throw them out of the country and thus preclude the need to do any such actions.

[Cheslow] Many people, other than yourself, have advocated similar actions against Jews. Doesn't this arouse in you any kind of disgust?

[Kahana] Absolutely not. The kind of people who say what you just said are the same kind of people who see no difference between the German bombing of Coventry during World War II and the British bombing of Dresden. Well, I do. [end recording]

Paper Reports Findings on TNT Organization

TA061201 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 6 Mar 84 p 4

[Report by Gad Li'or]

[Text] The 27 attacks perpetrated over the past 100 days and attributed to the underground group calling itself TNT (Terror Against Terror) have left no doubts even among the security forces: This is a question of a Jewish underground, very well organized, with skill in planning and implementation.

The shooting incident the day before yesterday, when TNT members near Ramallah fired at a bus carrying Arab workers to work in Israel, was undoubtedly an escalation in the way the underground works.

What is TNT? What do its members want to gain by their terrorist actions?

A security forces investigation to expose the members of the Jewish underground began the very day after six booby-trapped grenades were placed at the entrances of churches and a mosque in Jerusalem about 3 months ago. That same morning three main facts emerged:

—The people who placed the grenades were "professionals," who have extensive knowledge of ammunition and explosive materials.

—The action could not have been carried out by a single person.

The investigation into the 27 TNT actions to date has produced additional facts:

—The weapons and ammunition used by the members of the underground are made by the IDF, and it is possible that one or more of the underground members was or still is now on active service.

—TNT members carry out surveillance and information-gathering activities before every action.

At the beginning of the 1970's a group that called itself TNT worked in the Jerusalem area. Some of its members were captured, tried, and sent to jail. Have some of them returned to work in the same framework?

This possibility does not appear to be reasonable to the investigators. It is more reasonable to assume that a group of 5 to 10 Jews with rightwing-nationalist political views and perhaps even religious fanaticism is attacking Christian and Muslim clerics and the Arab population of East Jerusalem and the territories.

Jewish Students Sentenced for Attacking Arabs

TA041817 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] The Haifa district court today convicted four Jewish students of Haifa University of having attacked three Arab Technion students and causing them serious bruises. The four, Eliyahu Adir, Nisim Dahan, Gavri'el Ne'emani, and Avraham Nahmias, were given a suspended sentence of 9 months, and fined 20,000 shekels. Five other students who took part in the attack received suspended sentences at a trial which ended about 2 years ago.

Our correspondent Gabi Zohar recalls that about 3 years ago the assailants burst into the rooms of the three Arab students living in the Technion students' dormitories, beat them with clubs, and wounded one of them seriously.

West Bank Heads Who Met 'Arafat Face Reprimand

TA050728 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Mar 84 p 1

[Report by Asher Wallfish and David Landau]

[Excerpt] West Bank leaders who met in Amman last week with PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat are to be reprimanded but not prosecuted. This was decided in high-level deliberations in Jerusalem yesterday on the recommendation of the Defence Ministry.

Certain policymakers, among them former Defence Minister Ari'el Sharon, demanded tough judicial action against Bethlehem Mayor Ilays Frayj and some 30 other mainly moderate figures on the West Bank who crossed the Jordan to urge King Husayn and Yasir 'Arafat to agree on a common policy for the Palestine problem.

Contact with 'Arafat, as the leader of a proscribed, hostile organization, is forbidden under military ordinances promulgated in the late 1960s.

Unlike the parallel Israeli laws governing contact with the enemy, there is no test of motive in the military ordinances: in other words, even if the contact had no harmful purpose, it is still an offence.

Shamir 'Will Not Tolerate' Unemployment

TA070936 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Mar 84, p 4

[Report by Gid'on Alon]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday rejected the opinion of those who believe the volume of unemployment should be increased in order to fight inflation. "We will not tolerate unemployment in this country," he said.

In a discussion the prime minister held in his office with U.S. Secretary of Labor Raymond Donovan, Prime Minister Shamir noted that the U.S. proposal for a free trade zone between the two countries should be accepted favorably. This is of paramount importance to Israel, and would help improve the Israeli economy, he said.

The visiting secretary met President Herzog yesterday. Discussions on the Israeli-U.S. conference on labor affairs are being held in the context of his visit. The discussions cover labor relations, employment, vocational training, and work safety precautions.

U.S. Demands Israel Take 'Drastic' Economic Measures

TA021227 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 2 Mar 84 p 2

[Report by Ze'ev Struminsky]

[Excerpt] U.S. State Department officials are demanding [dorshim] that Israel improve its economy by deepening the recession and increasing unemployment.

The officials said in talks with Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad, who visited the United States a few days ago, that the United States cannot increase aid to Israel in a substantial way, and that therefore there is no escape from taking more drastic steps than those taken to date by the government in Jerusalem.

The *DAVAR* correspondent notes that the U.S. demand runs contrary to the opinion of the Israeli Government, namely that the "red line" of unemployment must not be crossed, since this may result in social disintegration. If the U.S. Administration remains firm in its opinion that Israel has not done enough to improve its economy, the efforts of Finance Minister Yig'al Kohen-Orgad to implement his economic plan and to bring about the hoped-for success, might be made more difficult to achieve.

Man Killed in Clash With IDF in South Lebanon

TA061811 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] IDF soldiers and local inhabitants today clashed in the village of Qana in southern Lebanon. A local inhabitant was killed in the course of the clash. Replying to a question, the IDF spokesman said that the inhabitants went berserk and pelted an IDF force that was driving through the village with stones. The soldiers fired several warning shots and left the site.

It later emerged that a UN force had evacuated a wounded local inhabitant who later died of his wounds. A UNIFIL spokesman reported that the 20-year-old man had died of his wounds aboard an helicopter that was flying him to the UN hospital at Rosh Haniqra. The UNIFIL spokesman added that the circumstances of the incident have not yet been specified. Most of the inhabitants of the village of Qana are Shi'ites.

Military Sources Deny Responsibility

TA070803 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text]The UNIFIL spokesman said a 20-year-old Lebanese man was shot in the eye in a confrontation with Israeli troops in the village of Qana near Tyre yesterday. The man died aboard a helicopter on his way to a UN hospital at An-Naqurah. Israeli military sources said there was no confrontation. They said Israeli troops entered the village and encountered residents throwing stones. The soldiers fired in the air and then withdrew. The Israeli sources said they knew of no casualties. UNIFIL Spokesman Timor (Goksel) said the circumstances were not clear and that there was no confirmation as to who shot the dead man.

Peres on Lebanon, Settlements, Other Issues

TA040717 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 4 Mar 84 p 3

[Text] The Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria do not constitute a major obstacle to peace between Israel and Jordan, Labour Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said in an interview on Israel Radio on Friday night. Two-thirds of the 30,000 Jewish settlers there live in areas such as the Jordan Valley, Gush 'Ezyon or Ma'ale Adummim, which his party is unwilling to return to Jordan.

The remaining 10,000 settlers would come under Arab rule, he said, if the territory where they are located reverts to Arab control as a result of negotiations.

On the political front, Peres said he believes the Likud must be replaced to make negotiations with Jordan possible. "Jordan needs peace for its own reasons," Peres said. "I don't know what Husayn and 'Arafat agreed between themselves, but in the Arab world, as elsewhere, not every declaration or agreement reflects the absolute and final truth," he said. He was referring to a reported confederation plan between the PLO and Jordan.

Even if a territorial solution cannot be reached in the first stages of negotiations, Peres believes there are things which Jordan and Israel could discuss. "Autonomy is a possible interim solution. But since the differences between the Israeli and Egyptian concepts of autonomy brought us to a dead end, I think we have to start with a clean slate. The Likud wants Jordan to come to the negotiating table on the basis of the Camp David agreements, and on that basis there is no chance," Peres said.

On the situation in Lebanon, Peres said Israel should announce that if Lebanon abrogates the agreement, we will unilaterally implement those clauses essential to our defence, which can be done without keeping the IDF in Lebanon. "The problem is that the government does not make decisions," he said. "Indecision has become its decision."

Peres said his party will introduce a bill to dissolve the Knesset and declare new elections this year as soon as it believes it can muster a majority in the house. An alternative government in this Knesset is no longer a realistic possibility, he said, because the term is more than half over and because the country's problems have become so serious that a clear mandate from the people is necessary to solve them.

South Lebanese Officer on Shi'ites, Attacks

TA021332 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 2 Mar 84 p 3

[Report by Menahem Rahat]

[Text] "The increasing attacks against positions of the soldiers in 'Haddad's Army' in Lebanon prove that the 'plotters' are afraid of their efficiency and treat them as genuine soldiers," Lieutenant Sharbil Barakat, Major Haddad's replacement as the temporary commander of the "southern Lebanese army" said in an exclusive interview with *MA'ARIV*.

Yesterday unknown persons attacked a position of the "Haddad forces" near Tibnin with RPG's. Over the past 2 weeks there have been four attacks against positions of the "free Lebanese army."

Recently Barakat's units have been reinforced by hundreds more soldiers, most of them Phalangists (mainly those who were in the Jazzin area) who joined the "free Lebanese army" in an organized fashion and stopped representing the Phalange in the area. The decision to break up the Phalange in southern Lebanon and transfer the soldiers to the "Haddad army" was made by the Phalange supreme command to unify under one command all the forces working "for the benefit of Lebanon" in the south of the country.

The forces are accompanied by IDF officers because of the absence of sufficient experience, of both soldiers and commanders, in the military sphere. "It is the duty of us all — Christians, Muslims, and Druze — to give our lives for the defense of Lebanon's freedom, at least that of southern Lebanon; and we promise to do this," Lt Barakat said in an interview.

Lt Barakat, who was Haddad's deputy during the last months of his life, emphasized that members of all the sects in southern Lebanon were serving in Haddad's army. In contrast to the impression in Israel — that all the Shi'ites are hostile to Israel and to "Haddad's army" — the recruitment of Shi'ites into the Haddad army together with members of other sects, is continuing.

Camille Sham'un Opposed to Accord Abrogation

TA051412 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 4 Mar 84 p 2

[Report by Ilan Kfir]

[Text] "We will not be able to forgive Amin al-Jumayyil for his disgraceful surrender to Syria," Lebanese Christian leader Camille Sham'un said in a special interview for *HADASHOT*.

"Amin al-Jumayyil has betrayed us, the Lebanese Christians, and the Lebanese people who believed they had a new opportunity for independence and sovereignty. He harmed the friendship and the close ties with Israel. We will not be able to put up with this move." The 17 May agreement was one of the finest hours of the Lebanese people. Al-Jumayyil abrogated the agreement without consulting us and this runs totally counter to our opinion. He has abandoned Lebanon's future and left it in the hands of the Syrians. In one unfortunate move he has returned the Lebanese people to the gloomy period of 2 years ago when the Syrians and the terrorists controlled Lebanon."

Camille Sham'un wanted to transmit a message to the Israeli Government via *HADASHOT*: "Do not desert us in this difficult hour. We intend to maintain warm relations with Israel, a country that has proven itself as a true friend."

Dani Sham'un on Continuing Ties With Israel

TA061042 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 6 Mar 84 p 2

[Text] I can hardly hear you. There is an artillery bombardment going on here and shells are exploding not far from my house. I am used to it. It is part of everyday life in Lebanon, and has been for years. This was said by one of Lebanon's Christian leaders, Dani Sham'un, in a telephone conversation from his residence in Beirut. Dani Sham'un spoke with disappointment of Lebanese President al-Jumayyil's surrender to the demands of Syrian President al-Asad to abrogate the agreement with Israel.

I am firmly opposed to this move of the president's, he said, and our party has published a reaction expressing distinct reservations regarding this move. We wanted the agreement with Israel maintained, and we believed the day would come when this political agreement would become a peace treaty. On our part we will do all we can to preserve the special relations with Israel which began long before the Lebanese war. We anticipate that our friends in Israel will have understanding for us and will not abandon us.

The young Lebanese leader, whose name has been mentioned as a possible future candidate for the presidency in Lebanon, asserts that he will not give in to the Syrian threats, and that he will endeavor to convince Al-Jumayyil of his error.

South Lebanese Christians Ready for Military Role

TA061856 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] South Lebanese Christians say they are ready to take on an expanded military role in the south. A delegation of the Christians, made up mostly of religious leaders, met with Deputy Premier David Levi today in Jerusalem. David Essing reports:

[Begin recording] [Essing] The Christians told Deputy Premier Levi they want free and open relations with Israel, despite their government's cancellation of the agreement. David Levi said Israel would continue to help them, but he added: The Christians must also help themselves against the PLO. The delegation had a concrete proposal: Sami Marun of Jazzin spoke of expanding the military role of the Christians in the south.

[Marun] We are working for our mutual interests. We do not want to allow the terrorists to come back to our area, and what we can contribute to it, is our duty ourselves to try defend our areas from terrorists. All we need is cooperation with the IDF, and we informed him that our people decided to join forces with the free Lebanon army, and we want the free Lebanon army to expand its field of work to the [word indistinct] Al-Kharrub area.

[Essing] You are talking about increased military cooperation with Israel, then?

[Marun] With the free Lebanon army.

[Essing] That free Lebanon army is the former Haddad force in the south. The [word indistinct] Al-Kharrub area north of the Al-Awwali river is a highly strategic and problematic region. It controls an outlet to the sea and the main road to Beirut. The Christians today presented David Levi with their strategy on how they want to defend themselves and continue to survive in south Lebanon. The deputy premier promised to study their ideas and then present them to the Israeli Government. [end recording]

MA'ARIV Commentary on Lebanon Agreement

TA051046 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 5 Mar 84 p 8

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "Divorce a la Amin"]

[Text] The idea of an Israeli-Lebanese meeting for cancelling the 17 May agreement did not come from Amin al-Jumayyil's mind. It was dictated to the president of Lebanon by Hafiz al-Asad during the surrender talks in Damascus.

It was the Syrian president's proposal that Lebanon initiate a meeting with Israel to give it the divorce papers. The Syrians also gave Al-Jumayyil directives to tempt Israel with talks about security arrangements on Lebanon's southern border, as a substitute for the Lebanese-Israeli agreement.

The Syrians permitted this "concession" because they also have a security arrangement with Israel over the Golan Heights, in the form of a disengagement agreement. The Syrians keep this agreement very scrupulously, but they are not prepared to take responsibility for keeping the peace on the southern border of their protege, Lebanon. Therefore they are proposing that Al-Jumayyil settle matters on the border, and come to a sort of new cease-fire agreement with Israel — with the extent of his ability to keep this cease-fire similar to his ability to keep the cease-fire in Beirut.

It is very doubtful whether the Government of Israel will be tempted to meet with Al-Jumayyil's envoys for a divorce ceremony. If there is any need for talks to determine arrangements that will guarantee Israel's northern border, it would be better to conduct them with Lebanon's new bosses, with Hafiz al-Asad, not with Amin al-Jummayil, who has proved that he is not independent and has even lost his sovereignty over the B'abda Palace.

The Syrian plan, which Amin al-Jumayyil is supposed to bring to Israel, is completely different from that which Phalange commandersproposed to Israel on the eve of Al-Jumayyil's trip to Damascus. According to that plan, Amin al-Jumayyil was to have met with the Israeli prime minister on condition that he was given a prior guarantee of Israeli aid against the Syrians and against his opposition. This Israeli guarantee was not given and, instead, Amin gave Al-Asad a promise to cancel the agreement with Israel.

Amin al-Jumayyil has only visited Israel once, in 1979, but he has visited Syria often over the years. The last time he visited Damascus was when he wanted the Syrians' support for the election of his brother Bashir as president of Lebanon. Bashir was elected, but Syria's servants in Beirut got rid of him a short while after his election.

Now Al-Asad has ordered him to give Israel a divorce; not through an announcement about severing things — as Bashir used to do, and after that he tightened the links with Israel — but through a direct meeting with Israel's representatives, in order to give this the status of an official divorce from Israel. And now Amin is carrying out Al-Asad's orders.

There are still people in Washington who delude themselves that the Syrian president will be satisfied with the cancellation of the agreement with Israel. This is not the case. In the UN Security Council, the Soviet Union vetoed the proposal to send 1,000 UN soldiers to Beirut at once, because the Soviet Union and its ally, Syria, have additional intentions: Syria is looking for ways to demonstrate to the Arab world that it has the ability to dictate to Israel even the form of the cancellation of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement, and that it can force Israel to accept the cancellation of the agreement.

The Soviet Union wants to damage the prestige of the United States by pressure to have them removethe 6th Fleet ships from Lebanese waters. This was the intention of the Soviet veto in the Security Council. If this move is not enough, Rashid Karami, the new prime minister who was appointed in accordance with the Syrian dictate, has guaranteed that he will demand that the U.S. ships be removed from Lebanese waters.

A thousand UN soldiers cannot save Beirut. They were only supposed to be fig leaves for the United States to cover up the Marines' withdrawal from Lebanon. However, the Soviet Union is not content with this; it wants to underline the U.S. defeat, to inform the Arab nations that the United States, under Soviet pressure, was forced to withdraw its ships from Lebanon's "Arab waters."

On the eve of the 6-day war Leonid Brezhnev, at a communist summit conference in Karlovy Vary, demanded that the United States remove its 6th Fleet from the Mediterranean. This is the Soviets' strategic goal in the area. The removal of the ships from Lebanese waters is only one step toward the Soviet goal.

Therefore, Al-Asad also demanded that Al-Jumayyil speak with the United States about cancelling the agreement with Israel. What is concealed behind this simplistic version is the intention that the Lebanese Government demand the removal of U.S. ships from Beirut port, so that the abasement will be clear.

Since the joint goal of the Soviet Union and Syria is not just to cancel the 17 May agreement, but also to damage Israel's and the United States' prestige through Lebanon, it would be proper for Israel and the United States, which are now holding another round of talks over strategic cooperation, to coordinate the answer to Hafiz al-Asad's proposals which are to be brought by Amin al-Jumayyil.

The United States and Israel do not have to rush to accept the proposal for a divorce al la Amin al-Jumayyil.

In fact, this is not Amin's proposal. It was dictated to him by Damascus, and he is only acting as a tool in Hafiz al-Asad's hands.

The rejection of this proposal could force the idea's originator, Hafiz al-Asad, to look for a better way to talk with Israel. In any event, Amin's proposal is not credible ["Amin" in Hebrew].

HA'ARETZ Commentary on U.S. Mideast Policy

TA021235 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
2 Mar 84 p 12

[Commentary by Gid'on Samet: "Possible Surprise in the East"]

[Text] From the Likud government's viewpoint, the damage of the war is starting to spill over to the apple of its eye: the future of the territories. This week the efforts of Syria in Lebanon were crowned with great success and it looked as though Jordan was about to give the signal that would undermine Israel's position in the West Bank. It is true that the best bet is that nothing will come out of the Husayn-'Arafat talks, but it is possible that this time relying on past experience may prove wrong.

A hint in this direction was brought from Washington by Shim'on Peres. On his return, he quoted Secretary of State George Shultz as saying that Husayn promised the Americans to join the peace process "with or without 'Arafat." Minister Yuval Ne'eman was impressed by what is for him a great political danger. He said that if this is true, it would constitute the gravest danger to Israel since its establishment.

Even if the time for panic has not arrived, it is not entirely unfounded. It is one more of the war's results, that for the first time Israel is facing considerable hardship, whether or not there is a Jordanian-Palestinian understanding. Today another version of the inter-Arab conflict of opinions will not be enough to free the government from the danger of an initiative on the West Bank. The possibility of such a move exists even if the dialogue between Husayn and the PLO fails. This possibility is based on a special combination of circumstances that were created since the round of talks last April.

This combination was basically created by Israel itself. Today Husayn has more self-confidence, and at the same time the divided PLO is in an inferior position as a competitor for the title of sole representative of the Palestinians. In the past Israel and Jordan had covert, convenient, and identical interests: Neither of them wanted a Palestinian state in the West Bank. But the present circumstances allow Husayn, unlike in the past, to enter negotiations and at the same time to pilot the talks on the future of the West Bank far away from the establishment of a state. He has more freedom to interpret the idea of a confederation differently than the PLO, which sees it as a combination of Jordan and a full-fledged Palestinian state.

The leadership of the West Bank is also more free from pressure. It can move closer to Husayn's position in the debate over adopting UN Resolution 242, without fearing the reaction of the PLO as it has done before. This new courage of West Bank public figures was expressed by Ilyas Frayj, who called for direct negotiations with Israel "before it is too late."

Jordan can therefore spring a surprise even if it turns out that the last year was not able to bridge over all the differences between itself and the PLO.

However, the greatest blow to the political position of Israel is connected with the United States, and this too can be traced to the bad fruits of the war.

Since the Reagan plan was initiated in September 1982, the U.S. peace drive was postponed until a settlement was reached in Lebanon. The ambition at that time was far-reaching: to calm Lebanon and Israel, to decrease Syrian influence, to strengthen the position of the United States in the area — and then to turn eastward with redoubled strength, long before the presidential elections.

Of course, everything happened in just the opposite way. The talks in Amman are being held the same week the United States was forced to admit that its mediation has ended in failure. Israel is nervous. Amin al-Jumayyil, after describing (in a talk with Sulayman Franjiyah) the agreement with Israel as "a corpse in the morgue waiting for burial," left for the burial ceremony in Damascus. Syria is celebrating its victory, and the U.S. presidential primaries have begun.

However, in this week in particular, the Jordanian-PLO talks were a comfort to the United States. At present these talks constitute the only fig leaf covering the nakedness of U.S. diplomacy in the area. Washington will do everything within its power not to miss this chance to improve its position. This week Washington hurried to cancel the trip to Lebanon of its mediator Donald Rumsfeld and instead directed him to carry on talks on the future of the West Bank.

Nothing can stop the United States in its race to compensate the President, who is running for re-election, for the serious damage done to his Middle East policy. The elections, which have always hindered American activity in the region, have this time become an incentive: The White House will want to blur the memory of the Lebanese failure with some sort of achievement.

It also seems to me that adhering to the Reagan plan is not a prerequisite any more. This initiative is not accepted by Husayn and the PLO, and obviously cannot be incorporated into any agreement between them. However, this is no longer a problem. If it proves necessary it will hide the 18-month-old plan in order to pave th way for any other adequate formula, especially if it comes from Husayn.

In this way the comfortable excuse of rejecting the Reagan plan will be taken away from Israel. Instead it will have to confront its promise to negotiate with King Husayn without any preconditions.

If this point comes, the contribution of the United States will not be in a political plan, which in any event was stillborn. Rather it will be in fulfilling an old obligation to a series of Arab leaders: namely to pressure Israel as soon as someone appears who is willing to negotiate with it. King Husayn can fulfill the U.S. threat, and apart from President as-Sadat there was never an Arab leader who held such a sharp-edged political weapon to the Government of Israel's throat.

As the weekend approached, the traditional voices of skepticism could be heard in Jerusalem concerning the chances of a breakthrough. The talks in Amman contributed to this assessment: Substantial differences remain between the sides. But behind the Israeli hope looms the unprecedented possibility that Jordan will act independently, backed by U.S. support and a leadership in the West Bank which is losing its patience. After such a complete reversal suffered by the hopes of Israel in Lebanon, it does not take a wild imagination to picture such a possibility. The prime minister said on Wednesday in a Yiddish radio interview that "the address for Husayn is here." This amounts to the standard formula for negotiating with Husayn without the PLO, under the assumption that this would not happen. It may turn out that all of a sudden this formula would have to be filled with substance, and Yiddish will not be enough.

HA'ARETZ on Need for Dialogue With Shi'ites

TA021008 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 2 Mar 84 p 13

[Commentary by Mikha'el Gerti: "Give Talking a Chance"]

[Text] After 20 months and 571 killed, even the most extreme among Israeli hawks is beginning the painful process of sobering-up. The dream of a Maronite Lebanon ruled by the Al-Jumayyil family is turning into a dream of the past. Before Israel's very eyes, a "new order" is being consolidated in Lebanon, but the plan for this order is being drawn up by Al-Asad, not Sharon.

The sobering-up has also brought in its wake the unavoidable conclusion that Israel must decrease its presence in Lebanon and concentrate on one mission: to guarantee the most security for Galilee with the least investment, because the larger investments damage Israel's security standard by damaging the IDF's preparedness.

It was the sober look at the genuine security problems that led to the "discovery" of the Shi'ite sect. The Shi'ites are a large majority — some 520,000 out of about 900,000 — of the inhabitants of southern Lebanon, and they are our neighbors, for good or bad. Any security arrangement made in the south will, in the end, have to be linked with the Shi'ites. They are the inhabitants of that country; they are the genuine neighbors, not the Druze in the Ash-Shuf and not the Maronites in Beirut. The Maronite minority living in the enclaves of Marj 'Uyun and Bint Jubayl also cannot prevent the terrorists' return without the cooperation of the Shi'ites.

February 1984 was undoubtedly the month of the Shi'ites in Lebanon, the largest and weakest sect in Lebanon. The sect that has always been identified with the backward south and the poorer quarters of Beirut has won an important victory. In a week Nabih Birri turned into a strong leader who controls West Beirut, and his organization, Amal, which set out as something more resembling a social organization, has become a main military and political power.

Israel is watching Birri's rise, as well as the increase in the Shi'ites power, with increasing interest. The complicated and sensitive attempts to begin a dialogue with the Shi'ite leadership are continuing. The Israel-Shi'ite dialogue, if it can be called a dialogue at all, has so far only been conducted on the local level. Beirut is not prepared for any contact with the Jews. Several hundred Shi'ites are serving in the southern army in Lebanon ("Haddad's militia") and several thousand are filling posts in the Lebanese electricity system in Sidon and the south. This administration system, so it is said, exists mainly to supervise the paying of salaries to its workers.

In return for dialogue and guarding the south against the PLO's return, Israel is offering the Lebanese Shi'ites a prize that is difficult to dismiss: control over the south. The Shi'ite leadership is very well aware of the moods in Israel and hears the increasing calls for a withdrawal. It is clear to this leadership that in the end the IDF will leave at least part of the area it is currently holding, and it is clear that he who is given the "keys" by the IDF in an orderly transfer will be able to maintain control over the south. The hierarchy of control among the Amal leadership is not monolithic, like Junblatt's status in the Druze sect, even after Nabih Birri's meteoric rise over the past month. It is reasonable to assume that Birri and the Amal top ranks understand the Israeli signals very well.

The attempts to make contact with the main Shi'ite leadership are still in the fetal stage, but several of the Shi'ite actions, especially in the south, can be interpreted as recurring signals. Even if these signals sound mumbled, they are not the fruits of an optimistic imagination. In two substantive matters the attitude of the Amal leaders in the south can be seen as a signal meaning "there is something to talk about." The first and most overt thing is the attitude toward those joining the southern Lebanese army: It is true that there is no encouragement to join "Haddad's army," but there is no opposition to such recruitment, and anyone who joins the militia groups is not condemned, and is certainly not subject to terrorist attacks.

The second, covert field, is that of relations within the Shi'ite sect, between Amal, which dominates the sect, and the extremist religious groups under Iranian-Syrian influence whose strings are pulled by kamikaze camps in Ba'labakk. The Amal leadership, which, in this matter, enjoys the support of the decisive majority of the population, fears the increase of fanaticism. It is taking extreme steps to contain Iranian influence. There is more than one reason to assume that about 2 weeks ago Amal guided those who murdered Raqib Harb, who came from the village of Jibshit and who was an extremist fanatic who preached kamikaze actions against the Jews.

To characterize the entire Shi'ite population of southern Lebanon as extremist Iranian fanatics is like saying that all Jews in Israel are members of Neture Karta [extremist religious fanatics]. It is true that the voices of the insane religious imams can be clearly heard — and they are capable of organizing a demonstration or partial strike when a religious leader is arrested — but they are a minority. The Amal members have demonstrated recently that it is also in their power to set barricades on fire (as in (Ar-Raziyah) near Sidon) in a demand to release an arrested Shi'ite leader, and, in contrast to the shayk of (Halusiyah) who remained in prison, the Amal member was released after a short interrogation.

The signals and repeated signals seem to be a source of optimism, but the overall picture dilutes this optimism with a great deal of pessimism. The first and most important trap awaiting Israel now in contacts with the Shi'ites is that of time. Those involved in these contacts — in the office of Uri Lubrani, the coordinator of activities in Lebanon, and the liaison unit that the IDF has established in Lebanon — claim that much more time is needed for the contacts. They should be conducted without a date for a withdrawal to a more southerly line hanging over their heads. The Shi'ites in general are in no hurry and members of Amal in particular would prefer to wait until the "dust settles" from what is occurring in Beirut and Damascus, until they decide on their position, and this must certainly happen before they agree to any sort of dialogue with Israel.

From this aspect, it is actually the government's avoidance of making a decision on a redeployment that has provided a period of time that appears positive to Uri Lubrani. Any decision on a redeployment could have stopped short the feelers, since there is nobody who will talk with those who withdraw. In a situation in which the decision is being postponed, the Shi'ites understand that the date of the IDF's departure from the south also depends on their behavior. In contrast to the need for time for the sensitive eastern negotiations, there is the problem of the rift between IDF soldiers and the local population. The roadblocks — particularly the barriers over the Al-Awwali River — the combing operations, the curfews and arrests after every attack are increasing the hostility to the IDF and making a dialogue more difficult.

An extreme example of the conflict between the time the negotiators are asking for and the results of the IDF stay on the spot was provided not long ago, when the IDF uprooted 250 dunams of groves belonging to one of the Shi'ite leaders. The IDF commanders, in this case, opted to safeguard their soldiers, and put the negotiations many weeks back, having lost a potential interlocutor.

All the instructions from the general staff and all of Lieutenant General Moshe Levi's understanding of the need for a rapprochement with the Shi'ites, expose, to a great extent, the limitations of the command. All the instructions for dealing with the Shi'ites with kid gloves are abandoned after an attack, when the sergeants and corporals standing at the barriers are the friends of those who have been killed. None of the appeasement attempts have been of any help when it is a question of a Shi'ite whose wife has complained about a bad attitude on the part of soldiers at a roadblock.

In the end many facts are determined by whoever is on the spot and it is difficult for those who are opposed to those facts to argue with the need to safeguard our soldiers.

Paradoxically, over the last month a situation has been created in which it is actually those who want to withdraw from most of the Lebanese territory held who want more time before making a decision in order to guarantee order in the Shi'ite area; and those who are prepared to content themselves with the narrow military interest — and withdraw to the Az-Zahrani — are claiming that every day the redeployment decision is postponed is costing lives. Those who are managing to make something of a bridge between the views are general security services personnel. In the nature of things, their work is not publicized, but we can say that the more time passes, the more successes are scored and the more information about the population we have. This means there is a possibility of working with "sensitive pincers" only against the people responsible for the attacks, without increasing the hostility of the rest of the population.

Those who regard the contacts with the Shi'ites as a lost cause often point out that those responsible for the latest attacks against IDF soldiers are Shi'ites, not Palestinians. This claim is being heard from both those who are calling for an immediate withdrawal from Lebanon, in order to prevent a rift with the population, and from the initiators of the war in Lebanon and their spokesmen. (This is how a strange coalition is being created, in which the same claims are heard from Uri Dan and spokesmen of the left.) Indeed, some of the Palestinians released from Ansar have left and some of them are remaining quiet; and those responsible for the attacks are Lebanese Shi'ites, except that, as stated, they belong to the fanatic, extremist minority.

From the operational viewpoint, it should be recalled that one or two squads — less than 20 people — are enough to inflict losses and disrupt large military forces — a fact that was tragically illustrated by the activity of the squad of extremist Shi'ites from (Halusiyah). (Halusiyah) is a village that exists mainly on the map; in the field there are four houses on the banks of the Litani River and the "terrorist squad" that was arrested there in fact included the inhabitants of the village, who began their attacks under the enthusiastic inspiration of the local shaykh. The entire affair can serve as a good basis for an insane comedy, were it not for the fact that the members of that squad succeeded in killing six IDF soldiers in a series of attacks. The deaths of two reserve soldiers near 'Arab Salim this week and one soldier near 'Aramta the previous week are also attributed to the extremist Shi'ite squad which, it is to be hoped, will be exposed and stopped before it inflicts further losses.

Above and beyond everything that has been said about the chance for contacts with the Shi'ites, it seems that Uri Lubrani did the best job of summing up the problem: "There is no guarantee of success," he said, "but we must try." For the same reason that talk about the withdrawal is making the contacts more difficult, officials at the Defense Ministry are not prepared to pin down the period of time needed for these contacts; and, from this aspect, they were helped by the government, which has not even set a date for the next discussion of the new IDF deployment. It seems that it would be better to give the dialogue a chance without binding the hands of those conducting the negotiations. This is because, if the talking breaks down, the IDF, as one of the experts phrased it, could stay in Lebanon — on this line or another — for "another 80 years."

HADASHOT on Indecision on Lebanon

TA051433 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 4 Mar 84 p 2

[Editorial: "What Will Be?"]

[Text] Waiting. After the peculiar urge for activity — which gave birth to the Peace for Galilee war — the government now has an urge to be excessively cautious and complaisant while waiting for events to unfold or, in other words, it has decided not to decide.

What will happen? Amin al-Jumayyil will call at the doors of the leaders of the various factions, will consult Al-Asad, may hop over to Saudi Arabia and, in a relaxed manner, work out a proposal for security arrangements on his southern border, a proposal which will presumably not arouse much enthusiasm in Jerusalem, and this will then compel him to formulate another proposal through consultations, and so on and so forth.

In a number of cases Israel was moved by events determined in Damascus and its reaction was delayed. This was true last week and so it will apparently be next week too. There will be additional attempts to rehabilitate Fadi Afram's forces but ultimately speaking Israel has maneuvered itself into a position in which it will depend on Al-Jumayyil's moves and, judging by past experience, a great deal of danger is inherent in this dependence.

Sharon Remarks on Need To Settle Nabulus

TA041615 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Our correspondent Gil Ronen cites somewhat surprising remarks made by Minister Ari'el Sharon: If we do not settle

Nabulus,terrorist activity there will increase and we may need to bomb [lehaftzitz] it. These remarks were made by Sharon to the members of the Judaea and Samaria Settlements Council.

[Begin Sharon recording] Let us assume for a minute that Jews are not present in Nabulus and in the course of time terrorist activity will begin in Nabulus. We do not know what the internal political situation in Israel will be then, nor do we know what Israel's condition and power will be from an international viewpoint. We do not know this. Israel will surely protest, [word indistinct] at first, but will later have to do something. If Nabulus becomes a center for terrorism where Jews do not enter, it is reasonable that the day will come when Israel will have to shell Nabulus. [end recording]

Calls for More Settlements

TA041932 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon says this evening that the heart of every Arab town in Judaea and Samaria must be settled in, and there must not be a single place left without Jews living there. Minister Sharon says that there is a tacit agreement between Israel and the United States to put a stop to settlements. There is no need to pressure Israel, he says; Israel gives in without pressure and without resistance. Minister Sharon was addressing the members of the Judaea and Samaria Settlements Council in the settlement of Tapuah. Our correspondent Shalom Oren was also there.

[Begin recording] [Oren] Minister Sharon this evening told the settlers of Judaea and Samaria: I have come to alert you. An emergency plan must be put into operation in order to enable settlement in Judaea and Samaria to take another great stride forward and emerge from its impasse. The government, Sharon says, displays constantly increasing weakness vis-a-vis the Americans, and we have reached a state of affairs where there is no need to even pressure the government. Israel, says Sharon, gives in without pressure and without resistance, and does not react, for example, to the Reagan initiative for arming Arab countries with U.S. weapons, or to the 'Arafat-Husayn meetings. Worst of all, Sharon says, is the tacit agreement between Israel and the United States to freeze the establishment of new settlements. A year ago, when Menahem Begin was still in office, Sharon says, there was a proposal in the Cabinet to halt the settlements until the conclusion of the political negotiations. The proposal was turned down then, he says, and today that line has emerged victorious.

Minister Sharon challenges the government's inactivity on the question of settlement.

[Sharon] Suppose that Bethlehem, which is within mortar range of Jerusalem or the 'Ezyon Bloc, operates against Jerusalem and the 'Ezyon Bloc. As for Israel, it operates there for lack of an alternative. It shells, and it brings in the Air Force. Can you conceive, even for one minute, what would happen there? There would be a global earthquake, without any resemblance to what happened in Tyre, or in Sidon, or in the terrorist quarters of West Beirut. It would not resemble any of these. It would be tantamount to a global earthquake. Therefore my conclusion is that on no account whatsoever must there be any place left without Jews living there. Therefore, if anyone should check on when I submitted to the Cabinet the matter of Joseph's Tomb, that in my eyes was a lesson from Lebanon. The Joseph's Tomb matter was accepted by me. I visited Joseph's Tomb on numerous occasions before that, but in my eyes Joseph's Tomb was the first step of Jews entering Nabulus, and Jews ought to live in Nabulus. We must enter every single population center. Janin must be surrounded. Jews must live in Nabulus, and it must be surrounded by a dense and close Jewish populations. Ramallah must be surrounded, and Bethlehem surrounded, and inside Hebron and around it, there must be Jews. Not one place must be left, not a single place, without Jews living there and moving freely there.

[Oren] Minister Sharon called on the heads of the settlements in Judaea and Samaria, and in the Gaza Strip, to be the standard-bearers on the issue of increasing Jewish settlement beyond the Green Line. Without you, Sharon tells them, it will not be done.

Criticizes Government, U.S. Administration

TA050900 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 4 Mar 84

[Text] This afternoon Minister Without Portfolio Ari'el Sharon came out with a sharp accusation against some of the Cabinet members. Sharon said there was an unspoken agreement between some of the Cabinet members and the U.S. Administration aimed at slowing down settlement in Judaea and Samaria. Minister Sharon claims that the Americans are not coming out openly against the settlements, and the Government of Israel is not settling. Since I resigned from my post, Sharon said, no new settlements have been established in Judaea and Samaria. Our correspondent Rami Gubernik reports that Sharon made these remarks at a congress of the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea and Samaria which was held this afternoon in Tapuah.

Sharon sharply attacked the Americans, saying that Ambassador Lewis and all the other U.S. envoys who visited the Middle East over the past year were, as he phrased it, the architects of the U.S. failure in Lebanon.

Sharon on Lebanon Arrangements

TA050732 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon has said it would be a mistake to discuss new arrangements in Lebanon if the 17 May 1983 agreement is cancelled. In Minister Sharon's opinion, Israel should inform the Lebanese that they have missed their chance; now Israel has freedom of action.

[Begin Sharon recording] We signed an agreement, and we cannot under any circumstances permit renewed discussion about another agreement. I know that people are now saying the United States is not putting pressure on us. That is true because, to my regret, we have become weaker and in very many cases there is no need to put pressure on us. It is enough to appeal to us. That is what has happened over the past year, and particularly over the past 6 months, when we lost our independence with regard to the United States. [end recording]

Minister Sharon was speaking to Herut Movement activists in Qiryat Yam.

Prime Minister's Office Denies Sharon Charges

TA051212 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] At noon the prime minister's office firmly denied charges made by Minister Without Portfolio Ari'el Sharon about the halt to establishing settlements in Judaea and Samaria. The prime minister's office announcement says that those remarks were completely baseless. Jewish settlement in all parts of Eretz Yisra'el is continuing and will continue in accordance with government policy.

Political sources in Jerusalem said that the remarks Ari'el Sharon made about the U.S. Administration's policy toward the settlements were also a crude lie. This is a quote from remarks made by political sources. The sources emphasized that the prevalent view in the Reagan administration is that it is impossible to disband the settlements.[sentence as heard] On this, too, Israel disagrees with the administration. But it is not true, as Sharon put it, that the U.S. Administration is applying pressure for a halt to the settlements.

Sidon Explosion Misses Sharon Convoy 6 March

TA061716 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] An explosive devise blew up in Sidon this afternoon. There were no casualties. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports it blew up on the side of the road while an IDF convoy that included Minister Sharon's car was driving through.

After the explosion Minister Sharon told our correspondent that he had been touring southern Lebanon in order to reacquaint himself with the issue in anticipation of the Cabinet deliberations. He cautioned that the IDF must not leave the Al-Awwali line, Jabal al-Baruk, and the present line in Al-Biqa' before we have completed our missions. He added that he would vote in the Cabinet against a decision to withdraw the IDF from the Al-Awwali.

Egyptian Delegation Visits; Incident in Tabah

TA041050 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 4 Mar 84 p 2

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] An Egyptian delegation headed by Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister Shafi'i 'Abd al-Hamid ended a 2-day visit to Tabah on Thursday. The delegation received explanations on the new building erected by Israel in the disputed territory.

It was learned that the Egyptian liaison officer, Captain Ahmad, visited the territory along with a camera and photographed the new building. The pictures were given to General Faruq and he passed them on to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. The building discussed is about 8 square meters and is meant for use as restrooms.

Last week there was an incident in Wadi Tabah between the border police and Egyptian soldiers. It occurred in the same area in which an incident occurred about 3 weeks ago. This time as well an Egyptian patrol entered Israeli territory.

At the same time, a border police patrol was in the area and encountered the members of the Egyptian patrol. An argument developed between the 2 patrols and after a short while the Egyptians returned to their territory.

The Egyptian consul in Elat was briefed on the incident by the Israeli liaison unit and a warning was also included. He reported this to Cairo.

Egyptian sources told the *HA'ARETZ* correspondent that the border in Wadi Tabah is not marked.

OAU Expresses 'Understanding' for Talks With RSA

AB060925 Paris AFP in English 0714 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Addis Ababa, March 6 (AFP) — African foreign ministers cautiously expressed their "sympathy and deep understanding" here Monday for the present negotiations Angola and Mozambique are having with white-ruled South Africa to try to bring peace to southern Africa.

Ending their half-yearly meeting at the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) headquarters here, they rejected after an often heated debate a more forthright draft which proposed that they "fully support" the negotiations through which they said Angola and Mozambique were trying "to preserve their independence."

With the divisive topics of Chad and Western Sahara not on the agenda, extra attention during the week-long meeting was on the southern Africa negotiations which began last month.

The Angolans and the Mozambicans pointed out that they usually had to bear alone the consequences of the political decisions taken by the rest of the continent concerning South Africa. African solidarity with southern African liberation movements — Namibia's SWAPO and South Africa's ANC and PAC [Pan-African Congress] — often amounted to little more than words, they complained.

The foreign ministers decided to step up their (?material support) for the liberation movements and promised to make up the current 16 million dollars of arrears in their countries' contributions to the OAU's special liberation fund. The OAU's financial difficulties — members are more than 34 million dollars behind in their payments — took up three days of the meeting. The OAU's 1984-85 budget is 25 million dollars.

With the pan-African body on the verge of paralysis as a result, Kenyan Foreign Minister Elijah Mwangale proposed that member-states more than two years in arrears lose their membership rights.

This year's OAU summit will take place in Conakry, Guinea, in May.

Ministerial Session Ends

EA061241 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 0900 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] The 40th regular session of the OAU Council of Ministers, which was being held at Africa Hall, ended last night after adopting various resolutions.

During its 8-day session the meeting approved the 1984-85 budget of the organization after detailed discussion of the interim secretary general's report on the issue. It also adopted a number of constructive resolutions after nominating two committees that assessed the continent's social, political, and economic situation.

Addressing the closing ceremony, the Niger foreign minister, who also chaired the meeting, said that the work done by the 40th OAU Council of Ministers meeting should be highly regarded and added that accordingly the meeting should be viewed as an example for future meetings.

Correction to 2 March Inter-African Affairs Section

The following correction pertains to the first section of the 2 March Middle East & Africa *DAILY REPORT* labeled "East Africa," pages R 1 to R 4:

The section heading is incorrect and should be retitled "Inter-African Affairs."

LIBYA

Bulgaria's Zhivkov, Delegation Arrive 6 Mar

LD061518 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Excerpts] A meeting was held midday today between the brother leader of the revolution and Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and chairman of the State Council in the People's Republic of Bulgaria.

The meeting was attended by Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Ahmad Jallud; Brigadier Abu Bakar Yunis Jabir, the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces; and Major al-Khuwayldi al-Humaydi. The meeting was also attended by members of the delegation accompanying the Bulgarian chairman, which included Petur Mladenov, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and foreign minister; Aleksandur Petkov, chairman of the National Agro-Industrial Union, and Khristo Khristov, minister of foreign trade.

Todor Zhivkov arrived in Tripoli this morning on a 3-day friendly and official visit to Jamahiriyah.

The Bulgarian leader expressed his satisfaction and joy for visiting Jamahiriyah and for meeting the brother leader of the revolution. In a statement he made to JANA he said that the existing relations between our two countries are friendly, and developing continuously. In addition we intend to develop them to serve the interests of the two friendly peoples and to realize our joint aims for the establishment of peace in the world. Chairman Todor Zhivkov stressed that Jamahiriyah and Bulgaria stand against imperialism and nuclear blackmail and struggle for international peace and the establishment and the strengthening of relations among the peoples. He said: I am confident that my meeting with Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the revolution, who enjoys a prestigious positions in the Bulgarian people's and world quarters, will give a new impetus for the deepening and extending relations between the two friendly peoples.

At the end of his statement the chairman of the State Council of Bulgaria delivered the greetings of the Bulgarian people to the Libyan Arab people wishing them further progress and happiness.

The Bulgarian leader is accompanied by a delegation which includes in its membership Petur Mladenov, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and foreign minister; Aleksandur Petkov, chairman of the National Agro-Industrial Union, Khristo Khristov, minister of foreign trade; Milan (Milanov), adviser of the Chairman of the State Council's office, and Aleksandur (?Kariyev), minister of construction and development [title as heard] and a number of the Bulgarian state and party officials.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With Zhivkov

LD061757 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1725 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Tripoli, 6 Mar (JANA) — A meeting was held at noon today between the leader of the revolution and Todor Zhivkov, secretary general of the Central Committee of the Communist Party and chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria. The meeting was attended by Staff Major 'Abd As-Salam Ahmad Jallud; Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and by Major al-Khuwayldi al-Humaydi. The meeting was also attended by members of the delegation accompanying the Bulgarian chairman, including Petur Mladenov, member of the Politburo and foreign minister; Aleksandr Petkov, chairman of the National agroindustrial union; and by Khristo Khristov, minister of foreign trade.

Further Report on Al-Qadhdhafi 5 March Speech

LD070343 Tripoli JANA in English 0831 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Excerpts] Tripoli, Jumada Athani 1, March 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — In his important speech yesterday evening the revolution's leader said that as of today: "Libyan troops positioned in the Al-Biqa' valley must either join the fighting with the Lebanese people against the Israelis — if there is a need for them — or return to Syrian territory or the the Libyan Arab territory after having accomplished their mission.

Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi confirmed the Libyan people's solidarity with the Lebanese Muslim and Christian people and said that the Libyan people must make more efforts and sacrifices with their brothers in Lebanon.

He also said that the Arab character of Lebanon has today been confirmed with the abrogation of the May 17 agreement which deprived Lebanon from its Arab character and was aimed at linking all Lebanon, land, air and sea to the Zionist and American camp.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi confirmed that the abrogation of the May 17 agreement has restored Lebanon to the Arab fold. "Therefore, we must give aid to the Lebanese people and stand by their side in defence against the Israeli forces which are accupying southern Lebanon until these are evicted and Palestine is liberated.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said: We have decided to continue the struggle and to make more sacrifices. Libyans must come forward to volunteer or join the camps of training and fighting on the side of the Palestinian resistance, the Lebanese patriotic movement and the Lebanese people. We must also come forward to volunteer and join the training camps on the side of the Sudanese, the Syrian, the Palestinian and the Lebanese people. We do not believe that borders should separate Libya and Egypt, Libya and Sudan, Libya and Syria, Syria and Lebanon, Lebanon and Palestine. This is our Arab land, one land, one people and one nation and we will exert all efforts to liberate and unite it.

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said to America, which today declared that it has established an air bridge between the USA and the agent regime of Khartoum, that its action does not frighten the revolution in southern Sudan, nor the Sudanese people, nor the revolution in Ethiopia or Libya. [Words indistinct] today running further away with this air bridge. Yesterday it announced that it had established a bridge with Ndjamena with the aim of terrorising us and forcing us to retreet even further than Faya. But we have backed the friendly froces and have moved beyond Faya Largeau. We are fulfilling the promise we have made, allying ourselves with the brotherly Sudanese people and the revolution in southern Sudan against the will of America and despite its air bridge. America's air bridge will be destroyed in Khartoum like the Phalangists and U.S. Marines have been destroyed in Lebanon.

Libyan Role in Abrogation of 17 May Treaty Cited

LD062342 Tripoli JANA in English 1743 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 1, Mar 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The Lebanese Cabinet held a historic session yesterday during which it announced the abrogation of the agreement which was signed on May 17 1983. By abrogating the May 17 agreement, the Arab masses have, once again, emerged triumphant over the forces of imperialism, Zionism and reaction.

The Lebanese Arab people, furthermore, inflicted a humiliating defeat on the crusade American forces and forced them out of Lebanon to American warships off Lebanese shores. It is worth noting that the Lebanese people's victory was not the result of political meeting and manoeuvring nor did it come about through U.N. lobbies or its organizations or through reactionary schemes, but was rather through sacrifices of the Arab dynamic forces.

What has been accomplished today crowned the alliance between the Great Al Fatih Revolution, Syria, the Lebanese National Salvation Front, the New Revolutionary Movement within Fatah and the Islamic revolution in Iran in addition to the sacrifices of the Great Al Fatih Revolution and the Libyan heroes who fell in Lebanon and whose blood had mingled with the blood of their Syrian, Lebanese and Palestinian brothers.

The triumph of the Lebanese people and the abrogation of May 17 treaty came to prove, once again, what the Great Al Fatih Revolution had, following the evacuation of Palestinian forces from Beirut and the aftermath massacres of Sabra and Shatila said that the battle in Lebanon is a national one and that the Zionists and crusaders could be defeated through people's war. It proved what Al Fatih had predicted that 1984 is the year of challenge and the defeat for the enemies of the Arab nation.

The Jamahiriyah has warned against the dangers of the Zionist invasion and the presence of NATO forces in Lebanon and that such new crusade campaign is aimed at the very existence of the Arab nation.

In this context, the historic leadership of the Great Al Fatih Revolution took the initiative and made many calls for the liberation of Lebanon and confirmation of its Arab identity. These calls and invitations was met with wide response from the dynamic forces in the Arab nation despite obstructions and reactionary attempts to stand in the face of the Jamahiriyah call for the unity of Arab joint action to confront the U.S. powered-Zionist death wagon. And within the efforts made by the Great Al Fatih Revolution to confront the capitulatory plans, many delegations poured into the Jamahiriyah. Among these are delegations and leaders of the Palestinian revolution, the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, Lebanese national movement. In this frame, the leader of the revolution held meetings and working sessions with all the Lebanese and Palestinians sides including Walid Junblatt, Abu Salih, Abu Musa, Abu Qadri, Khalid al-'Umlah, Abu al-Mahdi, Talal Naji, Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil.

Meetings also were held between Staff Major Jallud in Tripoli and Damascus and Walid Junblatt, Abu Salih, Abu Musa, Abu Qadri, Abu Majdi, Lt. Col. Abu Jabr, Sakhr Darwish, Ahmad Jibril, Khalid 'Abd al-Majid, Abdul al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, Khalid al-Fahum, Rashid Karami and 'Abd Ali Mustapha. To this effect other meetings took place between Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir commander-in-chief of the Libyan Armed Forces and Ahmad Jibril, Abu 'Ali Mustapha, Taysir Quba', 'Abd ar-Rahman Murad, Talal Naji, Fadl Sharur, Walid Junblatt, Abu Salih, Abu Musa, Abu Qadri, Khalid al-'Umlah, Wasif 'Urayqat and Asim Qansuh.

In this respect many visits were made by the leader of the revolution to Arab countries where he called for national and comprehensive mobilization to stand fast against the Zionist enemy and U.S. imperialism. Staff Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud made similar visits to Syria where he held many meetings with President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria, 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs in addition to his meetings with the members of the Lebanese national movement and the new revolutionary movement within Fatah.

JANA Editor Comments on 17 May Treaty Abrogation

LD061557 Tripoli JANA in English 1431 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada Thani 1, Mar 6, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY The political editor of JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY (JANA) commented on the decision taken by the Lebanese Council of Ministers, in its historic session, to abrogate the treaty of submission signed on 17th of May by saying:

"Motivated by its national goals, [word indistinct] inclination and revolutionary options, coming from the heart of people's authority, the Great al-Fatih Revolution once again lives an historic day to prove [word indistinct] al-Fatih Revolution's credible prediction of the inevitable victory of the armed masses who are free from government authority and tools of oppression. True. The abrogation of the treaty which was imposed by Zionist invaders and directly backed by U.S. imperialism together with submissive reactionary parties has come in accordance with the historical prediction of the Great al-Fatih Revolution, when it pointed out that the people's revolution is the right way for the Arab masses in order to burn the treaties of submission, shame and capitulation and to bring down the symbols of treason and subserviance in the Arab world.

The abrogation of the unfair and unjust treaty of shame is a new historical blow to all the enemies of the Arab nation, enemies of freedom and peace throughout the world. It came after another historical defeat inflicted on the forces of NATO. As the revolution's leader said in his speech, on the 7th anniversary of the declaration of people's authority and the establishment of the first Jamahiriyah in history, the countdown has started on what had been imposed on the Arab nation. That means, the Arab national people's struggle is bound to be crowned by the burning and bringing down of Camp David accord.

It must be noticed that this submissive separatist and shameful treaty was abrogated, thanks to the determination of people's revolution. Hence, the revolutionary Arab Libyan force together with the steadfast Syrians, the Lebanese and Palestinian national forces are now capable of bringing down the Camp David accord. We do not need to mention that this big sin committed by As-Sadat has been adopted by a fascist military junta which turned Egypt and Sudan into an Arab Salvador polluted by Zionist and U.S. rapid deployment forces.

We have no doubt whatsoever, as it was expressed by the consciousness of the revolution and of Arab nation through the leader and thinker Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi, that the countdown for the (?enemies) and their plots, against freedom of Arab nation, has now started.

Simultaneously, a new stage of positive struggle for the Arab masses has begun through the alliance of the revolutionary Libyans. All this would mean the continuation of revolutionary tide, the uprising of popular anger and of national will which would encourage the Egyptian people and its live national forces to remove the shame by the gun and the will of the people's revolution.

The decisive victory achieved today by the abrogation of 17th May 1983 treaty is bound to strengthen the confidence of the Arab masses and encourage them to instigate the fighting spirit and to raise pillars of struggle all which would enable them to gain victory in battle field against reaction, Zionism and U.S. imperialism, from the ocean to the Gulf. As we can see today once again a defeat was inflicted on these powers by revolutionary Libyans, the steadfast Syrians, and the faithful Lebanese and Palestinian national resistance forces.

SUDAN

President Numayri Receives U.S. Envoy 6 Mar

JN062201 Khartoum SUNA in English 1745 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Madani, 6 Mar (SUNA) — President Numayri received here today the U.S. President's envoy General Walters who was accompanied by First Vice President 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib. Following the meeting President Numayri told SUNA that Walters' visit to Sudan came as a reflection of President Reagan's keeness on continuing ties between Sudan and the United States.

President Numayri has referred to the first vice president's recent visit to the U.S. and affirmed that it had achieved its purpose of dealing with providing Sudan with military equipment.

Numayri added that President Reagan had pledged to dispatch this equipment by air shortly.

At-Tayyib and the U.S. Envoy General Walters returned to Khartoum after winding up the talks with President Numayri.

U.S. Envoy Walters arrived Khartoum yesterday evening.

Lagu Urges Southerners To Resort to Dialogue

JN061855 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, 6 Mar (SUNA) — Second Vice President Joseph Lagu has called on the leading thinkers in southern Sudan to respond to President Leader Ja'far Muhammad Numayri's call for settling the differences through dialogue and not arms. In a statement in this regard, he said: We must lead the ranks and voice constructive opinions, which will spare blood and safeguard the homeland's unity and the gains that the May Revolution realized for the citizens in the South. His excellency called on men of sense and judgment throughout the homeland to participate in this national dialogue. He also recalled President Leader Numayri's speech during the national unity celebrations. He said that the speech was clear regarding decentralization in the South, and he explained that the call for more decentralization and for setting up three regions came from the citizens of the South, especially from the citizens in Equatoria. He said that setting up these regions was intended to support and not to voiolate the principles of autonomy, the rights of citizens in the South, and the provisions of the Addis Ababa agreement.

Lagu also said that the citizens and institutions in the South still enjoy authority, and that these measures did not move any authority or scope of competence to the capital Khartoum, or to any other place outside the southern regions. He added that those who say otherwise must explain the authorities or scopes of competence that were decreased. He added that Numayri asserted that the issue is ultimately left to [words indistinct]. Regarding the recent incidents and troubles, Lagu said that President Numayri [words indistinct] has called on the leading thinkers to resort to dialogue and not to arms, and has expressed his readiness for peace, dialogue, and granting amnesty. Lagu added that those who carry arms should give their opinion and the reasons they are annoyed without resorting to violence so that we can continue the march of unity and development.

Lague also called on the leading thinkers in the South to respond to the president leader's call, to voice their opinions, to offer their efforts to contain the situation, and to abandon their neutrality while the situation is being aggravated. He added: We must lead the ranks and voice constructive opinions. This will spare blood, safeguard the homeland's unity, and preserve the gains that the May Revolution has realized for the citizens in the South. He also said that he directs this call to the leading thinkers, both inside and outside the homeland, to participate in the national dialogue, because the safety of the homeland [word indistinct] the solution of the problems is the responsibility of all the loyal political and intellectual leaders, who have always managed to settle the homeland's problems through constructive dialogue.

National Action Leaders on Communism in Sudan

JN061111 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Khartoum, March (SUNA) — In retaliation to the Marxist-oriented, the so-called Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement, the leaders of national action confirmed that the communist ideology had failed in Sudan because its Muslim people adhere to their faith and respects all religions.

SSU alternate secretary for organization committee said the Sudanese people preferred the alliance formula instead of the conflicts of classes which centres all authority in one class rather than seeking the interests of all classes. He declared that Communism in Third World countries had failed and led the emergence of fanaticism, wars and infighting between its leaderships.

The rebels and traitors in Sudan have exposed their atheist face to spotlight the sources of their support from communist forces and bastions in the region, he said. [Words indistinct] employees and technicans association said the so-called movement would face the same fate of other agent movements in the past. The president of Sudanese workers federation said the communist elements had lost their footholds in all the organizations in Sudan and were rejected by the Sudanese people because they had destroyed the trade unionist movement in Sudan.

The president of the farmers association said the farmers ranks are free of communist elements because the farmers believe in the formula of the alliance forces.

TUNISIA

Algerian Party Official Ends Talks in Tunis

LD062043 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Mohamed Cherif Messaadia has ended his official visit to Tunisia. The official in charge of the Central Committee permanent secretariat had talks with officials of the Socialist Destour Party and with Tunisian Government officials on cooperation between the two countries. The situation in the area and at international level, notably in the Middle East, was recalled. Mr Messaadia, who [word indistinct] an important party delegation, attended the festivities marking the commemoration of the Socialist Destour Party's 50th anniversary in his capacity as personal representative of President Chadli Bendjedid. The official in charge of the Central Committee permament secretariat was received this afternoon by President Bourguiba.

The last day of Mr Messaadia's official visit was marked by the signing of a joint communique and a protocol agreement defining the main outlines of cooperation between the FLN Party and the Socialist Destour Party and the means of further strengthening them in accordance with the directive of Presidents Chadli and Bourguiba and the principles of the brotherhood and concord treaty signed on 20 March, 1983 in Tunis by the Algerian and Tunisian heads of state.

Communique Issued on Algerian-Tunisian Party Talks

LD070037 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] A joint communique has been issued by the Socialist Destour and the Algerian FLN party following the official visit paid by the Algerian delegation led by Mohamed Cherif Messaadia to Tunisia in realization of the policy of continuous consultation and cooperation between officials in the two countries, from the premise of the treaty of brotherhood and concord and good neighborliness whose foundations were laid down by Presidents Habib Bourguiba and Chadli Bendjedid. The communique confirmed that the contacts and the talks between the two parties were held in an atmosphere of fraternity and mutual understanding. Both sides studied bilateral relations and evaluated cooperation between the two countries. They exchanged views on the international situation in general and the situation in the Arab Maghreb in particular. The Algerian side informed its Tunisian opposite number of the activity of the FLN party since the 4th congress. Concerning bilateral relations, the two parties expressed satisfaction at the special quality of these relations thanks to the close consultations between the two countries and which has led to getting them rid off the vestiges of colonialism and pushed them along the road of common building for the future in accordance with the directives of Presidents Chadli Bendjedid and Habib Bourguiba. The efforts made in accordance with those directives gave a new impetus to relations between the two peoples and the signing of important cooperation agreements which express the fraternal solidairty of the two peoples and their solid will to build the Greater Arab Maghreb. This new path was crowned with the signing of the treaty of fraternity, concord and good neighborliness which give these relations a distinguished nature. At the Maghreb level, both sides expressed their intention to work jointly for the widening of this course to the other fraternal countries in the Arab Maghreb. They expressed satisfaction at the development of bilateral relations and their will to widen and deepen it in the interest of the peoples of the region. Both sides undertook to work for the implementation of this objective within the context of good neighborliness, cooperation and continuing cooperation on the basis of a sound and clear visualisation of the meaning of unity based on the respect of the freedom of peoples, their dignity and independence and on taking into consideration the pecularity of each country and its (?preservation). Both countries called for overcoming all the obstacles which hinder the building of the Arab Maghreb, including the solving of the Sahara problem in accordance with the resolutions of the OAU at its 19th session which were unanimously approved by the UN General Assembly.

At the Arab level, both parties expressed their adherence and solidarity with the struggle of the Palestinian people led by its sole legitimate representative: the PLO, for self-determination and the establishment of its own state, confirming that it is impossible to reach a just and lasting solution in the Middle East unless the national rights of the Palestinian people are recognized and the complete withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the occupied Arab territories. They expressed their solidarity with the Lebanese people and supported its Arabism, territorial integrity and the respect of its independence and sovereignty. They addressed an urgent appeal to Iran and Iraq to end the bloodletting and find a peaceful solution to their conflict. Both sides also expressed concern at the deterioration of international relations and the threat to peace and security of the world that can result from this. At the end of the talks a protocol of an agreement regulating cooperation between the two parties was signed.

ETHIOPIA

Foreign Trade Minister Opens ECA Planning Meeting

EA061334 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] The Executive Committee meeting of the Executive and Program Planning Center of the Economic Commission for Africa, ECA, opened this afternoon at Africa Hall. It has been disclosed that the meeting, which will continue until 9 March 1984, will study reports presented on implementation of 1983-84 programs on transport and communication, industry, agriculture manpower planning and implementation, natural resources, commercial activity and special projects, which have been given priority and will hold discussions on them.

In addition the meeting will analyse the 1984-85 working program of the Lusaka Executive and Program Planning Center and will also prepare for the 19th ECA meeting to be held in Conakry, Guinea, and for the 10th ministerial session of the commission.

Opening the meeting, Comrade Wollie Chekol, minister of foreign trade, said the effect of drought in reducing agricultural output in numerous countries of the continent, the decline in the price of basic commodities presented for export, the deteriorating condition of the poorest countries, the current unbalanced trade facing the two countries, and their increasing foreign debt payments have put their development plans and economy in a serious crisis.

Wollie Chekol said that at this time of serious economic crisis the countries of the continent should increase their efforts towards drafting new development strategies and implementing them by taking concrete steps, and pointed out that participants at the meeting were expected to discuss the issues exhaustively and present objective proposals for the seventh ministerial meeting.

Eritrean Rebel Leader Views Horn Situation

PM061455 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Mar 84 p 3

[Report on interview with Osman Saleh Sabbe, leader of the Eritrean Liberation Front-People's Liberation Forces, by Gulf Bureau correspondent Babakr 'Isa — date and place not specified]

[Text]Eritrean Liberation Front-People's Liberation Forces [ELF-PLF] leader Osman Saleh Sabbe rejected any efforts to achieve peace in the Horn of Africa that ignore the Eritrean revolution. Replying to a question by *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* regarding the recent Egyptian initiative to bring about a reconciliation between Sudan and Ethiopia on the one hand and Somalia on the other, Sabbe said that the Eritrean revolution is the key to the solution of the Horn's problems.

He also refused to compare the Eritrean revolution with the problem of southern Sudan. He said: The Eritrean revolution can be compared with the problem of Namibia, since the reason for both problems is one and the same — Ethiopia's violation of the UN resolution on federation and the racist South African Government's violation of the international trusteeship resolution passed by the League of Nations and the United Nations.

He reaffirmed that any efforts for reconciliation between the countries of the Horn of Africa that do not take the Eritrean problem into consideration will not succeed.

Sabbe warned that an eighth military campaign is now being prepared by the Ethiopian authorities following the failure of the previous seven successive campaigns. He said that the Addis Ababa authorities have sent 30,000 soldiers to reinforce their garrison of 120,000 troops in Eritrea following the campaign of compulsory conscription that was launched last year.

Osman Saleh Sabbe denied that Sudan supports the Eritrean revolution. He said: Contrary to what the Ethiopian regime is doing in southern Sudan, the Sudanese Government is not arming the Eritrean rebels, although it is suffering the effects of this war by playing host to more than half-a-million Eritrean refugees.

Osman Saleh Sabbe declared that the ELF-PLF will once again propose the formation of an interim Eritrean government in the liberated Eritrean territory which, he said, is about 80 percent of the total area of Eritrea. This would enable Eritrea to win official recognition as a state by friendly states and the war to become a conflict between two states.

He said that hope for victory is strengthened by the present rapprochement between the various Eritrean factions resulting from the tripartite Jidda agreement between the ELF-PLF, the Revolutionary Council, and the Revolutionary Committee, as well as the Kuwait declaration between the ELF-PLF and the Popular Front which aims at expanding the Jidda agreement to include the Popular Front.

Sabbe said that the three fronts' signatories to the Jidda agreement held a meeting in Khartoum last week to discuss ways to achieve a comprhensive unity and the possibility of convening a general meeting for all the Eritrean factions which, he said, is likely to take place next April in the Sudanese capital. He praised the efforts being made by the Eritreans themselves and some of the sisterly Arab countries, foremost of which is the Saudi Arabian Kingdom, to achieve the unity of the Eritrean ranks. He expressed the hope that these efforts will lead to great results. The Eritrean revolution's fatal weakness is its division, he added.

Regarding a peaceful solution, Sabbe said:

We are not warmongers but we do have a right. We have experienced the sufferings of war and the destruction and dispersion it has caused to our people. But we are not asking for peace at any price. He added: We want negotiations with Ethiopia with no prior conditions. We will not abandon the principles of national sovereignty, but we can appreciate and understand the security, commercial, and economic interests common to both countries, as well as Ethiopia's need for an outlet to the sea. These matters can be settled through an international agreement, he said.

Concluding his statement to *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT*, the Eritrean leader drew attention to the dangers of the famine from which the Eritrean people are suffering as the result of the 3-year-long drought. He said: If the ICO has decided to give financial aid to the African coastal countries which are suffering from drought, this aid ought to include the Eritrean people.

TANZANIA

Foreign Minister Comments on OAU Meeting Results

EA061228 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1000 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Dar es Salaam: Foreign Ministers at the OAU meeting in Addis Ababa have (?pledged) full support for the diplomatic efforts towards seeking a peaceful solution to the situation in southern Africa, but the foreign ministers changed the wording of the draft resolution and approved instead a motion expressing sympathy and understanding for these efforts.

The minister for foreign affairs, Ndugu Salim Ahmad Salim, said over the weekend that Tanzania was well briefed on the discussions between Angola, Mozambique, and the South African racist regime. Ndugu Salim said although Tanzania could not speculate on the outcome of the bilateral accord, it sympathizes with the circumstances that led to the two members of the frontline states to open direct negotiations with Pretoria. The minister was addressing an airport news conference when he returned to Dar es Salaam from Addis Ababa, where he attended the OAU ministerial council meeting.

Delegation Leaves for Paris Financial Talks

EA061607 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1300 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] A 10-man delegation led by Finance Minister Ndugu Cleopa Msuya left Tanzania today for Paris, France, to meet officials from countries which had been providing loans to the East African Community when it was dissolved in 1977. The delegation, along with those from Kenya and Uganda, will meet the officials next Friday when they will review agreements reached between the countries on the distribution of assets and liabilities of the community. The officials expected to attend the meeting represent the World Bank, the EEC, Britain, Canada, Italy, and the FRG. The Tanzanian delegation includes Minister for Communications and Transport Ndugu John Malecela; Minister for Justice Ndugu Joseph Warioba; and the deputy principal secretary in the Ministry of Finance, Ndugu Mshangama.

CHAD

Opposition Faction Reconciles With Government

JN061117 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] Ndjamena, 5 Mar (SUNA) — An agreement was signed last Thursday between the Chadian Government political and military delegation which has been touring southern Chad for the past 6 months and an opposition faction in the province of Mayo Kebi in the south of Chad. The two sides issued a joint statement on the agreement which constituted a cease-fire and a promise of safe conduct for citizens and their possessions from the opposition faction, in addition to the release of detained members of the faction.

The agreement also included regrouping armed men of the faction in areas agreed upon by both sides, awaiting their integration into the Armed Forces by the government at a later date.

The opposition faction expressed support for the government of Chadian President Hissein Habre and its commitment to work for the unity and independence of Chad.

The two sides condemned the expansionist policy adopted by the Libyan Government toward Chad.

There is no information as to the number of men in the opposition faction who have responded to the call of national reconciliation and signed the agreement with the Chadian Government.

It is worth mentioning that the members of the opposition faction in southern Chad are all former officers and soldiers in the National Armed Forces of Chad. They had joined the opposition under the leadership of the Libyan agent Colonel Kamougue, who is in Tripoli.

It is worth pointing out that the political and military presidential delegation began its tour of southern Chad on instructions from President Hissein Habre. The tour aims at achieving national reconciliation among the sons of Chad and the opposition members in the south on the one hand and the central government on the other. At least 3000 opposition men have responded to the call for reconciliation during the past few months.

ANL Victory Over FAN Forces at Am Timan Depicted

AB061925 (Clandestine) Bardai Chadian National Radio in French 1800 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Here is a military communique from the National Liberation Army [ANL] general headquarters:

A serious clash took place last Saturday, 3 March, northwest of Am Timan, 50 km from the post of Am Habile. The fighting was between the ANL forces and the reactionary FAN forces and lasted for about 2 hours. Here is the casualty count: on the ANL side, two dead and two slightly wounded; on the enemy side, 25 dead, 7 prisoners of war, and several wounded; 15 light arms captured, and 30 horses seized.

The morale of the enterprising ANL soldiers is very high.

RWANDA

Foreign Minister Returns From OAU Meeting

EA061237 Kigali Domestic Service in French 0430 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Summary] Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Francois Ngarukiyintwali arrived in Kigali yesterday from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where he attended the OAU ministerial session.

NIGERIA

Police in Bauchi Arrest 104 Maitatsine Followers

AB060948 Lagos NAN in English 0943 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Lagos, March 5 (NAN) — The police in Bauchi today arrested 104 persons believed to be followers of the proscribed Maitatsine religious sect.

The assistant commissioner of police in charge of the criminal investigations department, Alhaji Umaru Jalingo, told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) in Bauchi that the persons were arrested at a road block in Billahishi. Alhaji Umaru further said that eight persons, also suspected to be religious fanatics, were arrested in Bauchi yesterday, adding that the men were being interrogated.

Meanwhile, the Bauchi commissioner of police, Malam Abdullahi Shettima, has appealed to Christians and Muslims in the state to confine their preachings to churches and mosques.

In another report, the police in Makurdi also announced the arrest of 222 persons suspected to be members of the religious sect. A police spokesman, Mr John Anefu, said today that the suspects were arrested at Ankpa in Benue. Mr Anefu said that the suspects had appeared in court and had been remanded in prison custody till April 16.

Police Official Says 535 Killed in Yola Riots

AB061250 Lagos NAN in English 1244 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Yola, March 6 (NAN) — Five hundred and thirty-five persons, including seven policemen, were killed during last week's religious disturbances in Jimeta, Yola, an assistant inspector-general of police, Mr Victor Pam, said in Yola yesterday. He told newsmen that 921 persons suspected to be followers of the "Maitatsine" sect had been arrested in connection with the disturbances.

Mr Pam, who conducted newsmen round the affected areas, said that all the places were now safe and that the leader of the fanatics, Musa Makaniki, had not yet been identified by the police. He said that policemen found involved in looting during the uprising had been dismissed while those who used unnecessary force on some members of the public had been demoted.

A correspondent of the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) said that about 15 unidentified corpses were still in deserted buildings in the area.

Border Security Questioned in Wake of Rioting

AB051905 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] The Federal Government has been asked to intensify security checks at the borders in order to curtail religious riots in the country. The suggestion was made by the newly turbaned are Muslimi [chief of Muslims in Yoruba language] of Ogun State, Alhaji Muhammadu Murtala Kuye, while addressing newsmen after the turbaning ceremony. He also suggested that that part of the ECOWAS treaty which granted people from member states permission to stay in a country for 90 days without a visa or stay permit should be reviewed. The are said there was clear indication that the devastators of the Maitatsine riots were not Nigerians.

Alhaji Kuye urged Muslims all over the country, irrespective of their sect, to be vigilant and not to listen to people preaching the existence of another Islamic leader other than Prophet Muhammad.

New Border Policy Forthcoming

AB061450 Lagos International Service in English 1330 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Excerpt] A new border security policy is to be introduced in Nigeria. The minister of internal affairs, Brigadier M.S. Magoro, disclosed this during a courtesy call from the military governor of Kano State, Air Commodore Hamza Abdullahi. He explained that under the new measures, all the three tiers of government, the traditional chiefs, and the law enforcement agencies will be fully involved in the country's border post control. He (?stated that) the new dispensation will make Nigerians to be security conscious.

Brig Magoro emphasized that continuous round-up of illegal aliens will put an end to their influx into Nigeria. He appealed to the governor to render necessary assistance to the officials of his ministry and other Federal Government agents in his state.

Minister Views Progress in Negotiations With IMF

AB060952 Lagos NAN in English 0945 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Lagos, March 5 (NAN) — The minister of finance, Dr Onaolapo Soleye, said in Lagos today that considerable progress had been made in Nigeria's negotiation for an extended credit facility of between 1.9 and 2.4 billion naira with the IMF.

Opening the UBA [United Bank for Africa]-sponsored two-day international conference on "Foreign Debts and Nigeria's Economic Development," Dr Soleye said that progress was made toward resolving areas of disagreement which centred on trade liberalisation, reduction of petroleum subsidy and exchange rate adjustment of the naira.

Dr Soloye, who has just returned from Washington where he had talks with the IMF, told the conference that negotiations were however, continuing.

The UBA managing director, Alhaji Umaru Mutallab, called on African nations to formulate a coherent and well coordinated approach to the debt issue. Recalling that Africa's share of global wealth was little, Alhaji Umaru said that it was not surprising that the continent was feeling the present global financial crunch much more than other continents.

About 200 delegates are attending the conference.

African Economic Policies Assessed

AB061930 Lagos NAN in English 1355 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Lagos, March 6 (NAN) — ECA [Economic Commission for Africa] executive secretary, Prof Adebayo Adedeji, has suggested that African nations restructure their monetary and financial policies to meet current exigencies and to generate growth, if they are to pay their external debts.

Delivering a paper at the current two-day international conference on "Foreign Debt and Nigeria's Economic Development" in Lagos, Prof Adedeji said that growth prospects would depend on the extent to which structural adjustment problems received concessionary long-term financing. Prof Adedeji also called on African governments to adopt drastic measures at the national level to curb public over-spending and waste of domestic resources. The ECA executive secretary also said that African governments should curb their excessive dependence on foreign technical management and consultancy services at exorbitant fees when there were competent nationals.

He estimated debts owed by African countries in 1983 at 114.5 billion naira and blamed the debts on declining export earnings, increasing import bills, poor economic management, inability to fully use foreign aid to generate surpluses for repayment of the loans and service charges, and the absence of adequate policies and institutions for domestic resource mobilisation and management.

Prof Adedeji, who spoke on "Foreign Debt and the Prospect of Growth in Developing Countries of Africa in the Early 1980's," also blamed Africa's debts on the adverse role of international banks.

Earlier, Chief S.B. Falegan of the Central Bank of Nigeria had called on African nations facing debt problems to embark on a vigorous promotion of their export trade and a drastic reduction of their merchandise imports. Chief Falegan said that African nations should welcome the in-flow of foreign capital through external loans and equity participation if their economies were not unduly exploited and if the loans contributed to the growth of their productive capacities. He also suggested that they should only accept foreign loans if they would be repaid without much problem to their economies.

Chief Falegan said that there was the need to design a control and surveillance system of all external debts incurred by each country from the private and the public sectors.

The conference continues today.

Papers Comment on Bilateral Talks With Libya

AB061445 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 6 Mar 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Two papers, the *NEW NIGERIAN* and the *NIGERIAN OBSERVER*, discuss the recent bilateral talks between Nigeria and Libya in Lagos. The papers share almost the same opinion on the issue. In its own contribution, the *NEW NIGERIAN* observes that the relationship between Nigeria and Libya in the past had not been very cordial; however, the paper expresses the hope that with the signing of a joint communique which calls for the withdrawal of foreign troops in Chad and the setting up of joint banking venture, the two countries are now poised to redeem their relations.

The *NIGERIAN OBSERVER*, on its own part, says the bilateral cooperation agreement between the two countries is the first step towards meaningful relationship in the years ahead. The paper particularly welcomes the establishment of a Nigerian-Libyan bank which, it believes, will bring about a more realistic approach to the economic well-being of the two countries. In the final analysis, the *OBSERVER* remarks that with the two countries backing an OAU decision to find a lasting solution to the Chadian conflict, their recent relations will ensure peace in that country.

UPPER VOLTA

Sankara Sends Message to OAU on SDAR Recognition

AB062020 Dakar PANA in French 1655 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Ouagadougou, 6 Mar (AVP/PANA) — Captain Thomas Sankara, the Upper Voltan head of state, sent an advisory message to President Mengistu Haile Mariam of Ethiopia, the current chairman of the OAU, following Upper Volta's recognition of the SDAR. Here is the full text of the message:

I have followed with interest the relentless efforts you continue to make in order to find a just solution to the painful problem that has been afflicting our continent, specifically Western Sahara. I particularly appreciate the numerous patient arrangements you have made to bring the Saharan and Moroccan peoples to the conference table for a fraternal exchange of views in accordance with the wise and clairvoyant resolution AHG 104-119 of our great OAU organization. Convinced that this resolution was being effectively implemented by all sides, the ensuing referendum would, if dealt with in a strictly regular manner, manifest the deep aspirations of the Saharan people to live in freedom, dignity, and total independence on its national territory.

The increasing number of obstacles being put in the way of the very promising arrangements you have made by the enemies of the Saharan people have created much concern among the heads of state and government still connected with the OAU.

— Considering the maneuvers being made to impede justice and truth for the people,
— Considering that there is a continued desire to impose on the Saharan people long and harsh trials through subtle and circuitous arguments concerning law and protocol,
— And concerned by the need to safeguard African unity and to strengthen our continental organization on the basis of justice and in the sole interest of our popular masses,

Mr President and Dear Brother, I have the honor of informing you and kindly asking you to transmit this information to our peers of the continental organization of which you are the current chairman and to inform the secretary general of the following decision made by my country:

The National Revolutionary Council and the revolutionary Government of Upper Volta took the sovereign decision today, 4 March 1984, to recognize the SDAR and give it its active support in order that it may enjoy all the rights attached to independence and national sovereignty.

Mr President and Dear Brother, please accept the expression of my deep attachment to African unity and to all the just causes of the popular masses of Africa, as well as to friendship, fraternity, and solidarity among the peoples of the world.

Tribunal Hands Down Suspended Sentences, Fines

AB061153 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 0630 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Excerpts] The fourth session of the People's Revolutionary Tribunal ended yesterday afternoon with the passing of judgment at the Ouagadougou People's Hall.

After reviewing the testimonies on the various charges, the chairman of the tribunal read the judgments. Some of the accused were acquitted of the charges against them. They are (Jean) Barry, Harouna (Traore), and Albert Patoin Ouedraogo [former minister of education]. Here are the remaining judgments delivered and read by Comrade (Ba Sambo Antoine):

[Begin recording] The tribunal, after deliberating on the testimonies and after hearing the accused in the last place, decided to sentence Georges Sanogo to 3 years' suspended jail sentence and to fine him 10 million francs. He will reimburse the Upper Voltan state 4,657,476 francs and pay 2,328,738 in damages. It has decided to confiscate his property to the extent of the sums he is to reimburse and pay as damages to the state.

As for Konate Domba [former minister of education], the tribunal has sentenced you to 3 years' suspended jail term. You are to reimburse the Upper Voltan state 2,512,000 francs and to pay 1,258,000 francs as damages. The tribunal has decided to confiscate your property to the extent of the sums of reimbursement and damages to the state.

Mrs Traore, nee Sigui: The tribunal has given you 1 year suspended prison sentence. You are to reimburse the Upper Voltan state (?480,347) francs. Your property to the extent of the amount to be reimbursed will be confiscated.

Drammane Sanon [former minister of youth and sports]: The tribunal sentences you to a fine of 50,000 francs. You are also to reimburse the Upper Voltan state 450,000 francs and your property, not exceeding the amounts to be reimbursed, will be confiscated.

Faustin Sib Sie [former minister of higher education]: The tribunal acquits you of the charges. However, you are to reimburse the state for 135,000 francs in lieu of Comrade Compaore Awa, a typist at the General Secretariat for Scientific Technological Research.

Francois Kabore Gnankieta: The tribunal sentences you to 3 years' suspended jail term. You are to reimburse the Upper Voltan state 902,400 francs, pay 451,200 francs in damages and a fine of 1,000,000 francs. The tribunal has decided to confiscate your property to the extent of the amounts to be paid as reimbursement, damages and fine.

The People's Revolutionary Tribunal, after passing these judgments, has now come to the end of its sessions, and it thanks the Upper Voltan people for attentively following its sittings. The session is closed. [end recording]

ANGOLA

Foreign Minister Assesses Tripartite Talks

LD061404 Algiers APS in English 1115 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Algiers, 6/3 (APS) — Far from changing their policy before Angola, Washington and Pretoria are compelled to adopt new positions, Mr Paulo Jorge, Angolan foreign minister estimated in an exclusive interview made to the national daily *EL MOUDJAHID*.

Mr Jorge evoked many reasons of this change in Pretoria's policy in the region. He quoted in this regard "the frustration and the grumbling of the international community due to the delay of the solution to the Namibian problem, the economic and financial problems undergone at the present time by the Pretoria regime resulting from its aggressive actions against the neighboring countries, the preparation of presidential elections in the USA leading the U.S. Administration to present a positive aspect of its external policy" and finally the persistence of the Namibian problem.

Explaining the new developments in the region, notably the signature by Angola of an accord with South Africa followed by the creation of an Angolan-South African joint commission, the Angolan minister stressed that it was the issue of a (?huge) diplomatic activity led by Angola together with the UN Secretariat since the holding on May 1983 of the extraordinary meeting of the UN Security Council on the Namibian question.

After the 20 December 1983 Security Council meeting and the adoption of the Resolution 545, the Angolan Government, concerned by the finding of a rapid and lasting solution to the Namibian problem express its accord, in a message addressed by the Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos to the UN secretary general on 31 December for the establishment of a process of a military disengagement [sentence as received].

Proposed by the U.S. Administration, the meeting between the Angolan and the U.S. Administration held in Cape Verde on the examination of proposals enabled Angola to have U.S. assurances and guarantees as to the seriousness and the honesty of South African position. A joint communique was released at the end of the Angolan-South African meeting of 16 February mentioning the creation of Angolan-South African joint military commission to examine modalities and to control the process of disengagement.

Soviet Ambassador Kalinin Tours Benguela, Namibe

MB031247 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 3 Mar 84

[Text] The Soviet ambassador to Angola has been in Benguela since the day before yesterday on a working visit. Speaking to the media in that province, Arnold Kalinin said that he is visiting Benguela with a view to discussing important issues related to Angolan-Soviet cooperation. Within this framework, the Soviet diplomat visited the Benguela Central Hospital and the Africa Textil industrial complex the day before yesterday. A meeting with provincial MPLA-Labor Party and government officials was held soon after the visits.

Yesterday, the Soviet ambassador was scheduled to visit the Commander (Ngagi) Road Transportation Training Center and the Lobito shipyards and to meet with Soviet nationals who are working in Benguela.

Arnold Kalinin, who is accompanied by the counselor for economic affairs of his embassy, will leave Benguela for Namibe on a smiliar visit.

LESOTHO

Opposition Member Resigns From National Assembly

MB061230 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1130 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] A member of the opposition Congress Party, Mr Phika Chaolane, who was recently appointed by the South African foreign minister, Mr Pik Botha, to the chairmanship of the newly formed Democratic Alliance, has resigned his membership of the interim National Assembly.

Mr Chaolane is a founder member of the interim assembly which he joined at its inception in 1973. Mr Chaolane's resignation comes soon after a visit to Pretoria during which consultations leading to the formation of the Democratic Alliance were held with Mr Pik Botha.

At this meeting, Mr Chaolane is purported to have represented the Mokhetle wing of the Basotholand Congress Party, while the United Democratic Party was represented by Mr (Mogubelu) and the Marema Tloe Freedom Party was represented by Mr (Motsumi Monaheng). Other members of the delegation were Mr C.D. Molapo, former minister of information and broadcasting, and Mr Thomas Mofolo and Mr Thabo (Mogotsoe).

Mr Chaolane's resignation also coincided with the tentative moves made by the Privileges Committee of the National Assembly to investigate the status of Mr Chaolane in the Assembly following the Pretoria meeting. Reliable sources report that the Privileges Committee of the house was investigating the possibility of a public hearing into the nature of the Pretoria discussion and the extent to which the participation in the talks could be prejudicial to the interests of the National Assembly and indeed the interest of the country.

Mr Chaolane is the second member of the National Assembly to leave the house following connections and discussions with the representatives of the South African Government. The first was the leader of the United Democratic Party, Mr Charles Mofeli, who was expelled from the Assembly after condoning the South African invasion of Maseru by the South African Defense Force on 9 December 1982.

Commentary on Resignation

MB070928 Maseru Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Mr Phika Chaolane's resignation from the interim National Assembly did not come as a surprise to those who have kept a close eye on recent political developments in Lesotho. First, it is obvious that Mr Chaolane was trying to preempt an intended public inquiry which the Privileges Committee of the Assembly was investigating. He probably remembered the disgraceful manner in which Mr Charles Mofeli was expelled from the Assembly after he had condoned the December 9 massacre on Maseru carried out by the South African Defense Force.

However, in recent months Mr Chaolane was beginning to display a certain amount of political loneliness. he had recently been expelled by the leader of the internal wing of the Basotholand Congress Party, Mr G.P. (Ramurebuli), after he had begun to undermine Mr (Ramurebuli's) own leadership. Lately Mr Chaolane was beginning to revert back to his political roots — that is, the external wing of the BCP which controls the Lesotho Liberation Army, which in turn is controlled by South Africa.

It is through this latest political link, or rather his return to his old political fold, that Mr Chaolane got involved with the South African foreign minister, Mr Pik Botha, in the formation of the Democratic Alliance of which he is chairman.

Mr Chaolane's wandering in search of a political home has been politically frustrating for him. A disgraceful dismissal from the National Assembly, as many observers predicted, would have been the final blow against a man whose political morale had dwindled in much the same way as the political parties he supported and will support in the future. All that now seems left for Mr Chaolane to do is to retire into political oblivion and count himself among the political has-beens of Lesotho. That is all.

MOZAMBIQUE

NOTICIAS Stresses Importance of RSA Peace Pact

MB061417 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] The creation of true peace calls for greater vigilance, the complete liquidation of the armed bandits, and an increase in production and economic efficiency. This is stated in a front-page editorial in today's issue of *NOTICIAS*.

The editorial stresses that good neighborliness is a process which develops slowly but surely, and adds that this process has begun between Mozambique and South Africa. The signing of an accord for peace, stability, progress and good neighborliness between Mozambique and South Africa will be a fundamental step in that process, writes *NOTICIAS*. The morning daily points out that, with the advent of peace, the People's Republic of Mozambique can follow a sure path of development. In South Africa, the peace accord can only be regarded as a defeat for those who do not want to learn from history. Thus militarism and warmongering are being defeated with the conclusion of a good neighbor pact, adds *NOTICIAS* in a front-page editorial in today's issue.

Nordic, FRG Delegations Visit Tete Province

MB070749 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0430 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] A delegation of the Nordic countries that visited Tete Province this week was received by Brigadier Matias Juma, the second Frelimo Party secretary and provincial military commander. The Nordic delegation visited Tete Province to analyze the implementation by provincial government officials of the (Tou) project to support cooperative development. During its stay in Tete Province, the delegation of the Nordic countries visited several projects linked with their mission in the Changara district.

Recently, a FRG delegation was also in Tete Province to study and define the areas of possible cooperation in the small agricultural projects in the family and cooperative sectors. The FRG delegation was also received by the second Frelimo Party secretary in Tete.

Briefs

Envoy Meets GDR's Honecker — Julio Goncalves Braga, Mozambique ambassador-designate to the GDR, presented his credentials to Erich Honecker, GDR head of state, in Berlin on Friday. During the ceremony the Mozambique diplomat delivered a special message from President Samora Machel to his GDR counterpart. [Text] [Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0800 GMT 6 Mar 84 MB]

Norwegian Financial Assistance — The Norwegian Agency for International Development [NORAD] has made available about $13 million for development projects in Mozambique this year. The money will be used in several areas, including power, coastal transport, petroleum exploration, and fisheries, with one of the biggest projects being assistance in the building of a small hydroelectric power station at Cuamba in Niassa Province. NORAD has already helped in the building of a similar power station in the provincial capital of Niassa, Lichinga. [Excerpt] [Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 6 Mar 84 MB]

NAMIBIA

Shipanga: Nujoma Never Tried for Toivo Release

MB061157 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1120 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Windhoek, March 6, SAPA — SWAPO co-founder, Mr Herman Toivo ja Toivo, had a historic role to fulfill in leading

SWA/Namibia to national independence, the leader of the breakaway SWAPO-Democrats, Mr Andreas Shipanga, said in Windhoek today.

Addressing a news conference, Mr Shipanga demanded at the same time, "the immediate and unconditional release" of all remaining "political prisoners" held on Robben Island, as well as SWA/Namibian political prisoners held in the territory and in neighbouring countries.

Mr Shipanga denied that he had ever tried to visit Mr ja Toivo in prison as reported earlier, saying he had always wanted to meet Mr ja Toivo again "but never in prison, only as a free man."

SWAPO's leadership was using Mr ja Toivo's release as an opportunity to make political capital at the expense of others, Mr Shipanga said. He said it was difficult to understand the SWAPO leader Mr Sam Nujoma's "sudden concern" about the well-being of Mr ja Toivo.

After Mr ja Toivo's arrest in 1967, Mr Nujoma had opposed "any activity on the part of SWAPO to campaign for the funds to cover for the legal costs in the defense of Mr ja Toivo and others in the Pretoria trial," Mr Shipanga said. "The costs of Mr ja Toivo's counsel had been borne by the Defence and Aid Fund in London and the United States Council of Churches," he added.

In 1970, Mr Nujoma had ordered the immediate removal of all Mr ja Toivo's photographs hung in "in all SWAPO missions abroad."

Mr Shipanga said Mr Nujoma had let slip an opportunity to have Mr Toivo released when SWAPO insurgents captured a South African soldier, sapper Johann van der Mescht, in early 1978. "Instead of exchanging him for the release of his (Mr Nujoma's) own people, he had chosen to release him in exchange for a Soviet spy."

At no stage did Mr Nujoma call for the release of prisoners, because he "does not have moral grounds to stand on since he himself is fully in the business of imprisoning those of his own members who dare to hold different views from his own."

Mr Shipanga, who is one of the leaders represented in the SWA/Namibian Multi-Party Conference, listed the names of SWAPO members Mr Linekela, Mr John Kadhila, Mr Abner Hangolo, Mr Jerry Muiiyale, and Mr John Kanyemba, who had been "all killed on August 5, 1976 at Mboromba Concentration Camp in Zambia."

Mr Shipanga said he and 2,000 other SWAPO members had been arrested in 1976 in Zambia, whose president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, had released 800 the following year. The rest were taken by Zambian army trucks to Angola and "we do know what happened to them," he said.

The reason for the arrests had been because a section of SWAPO had asked for the holding of a congress. Mr Nujoma said "those who wanted a congress were South African agents and wanted to destroy SWAPO," Mr Shipanga said. The SWAPO leader had said SWAPO would hold its next congress in a liberated SWA/Namibia.

Mr Shipanga said representations had been made to the International Committee of the Red Cross in 1981, but they were refused access to SWA/Namibian prisoners held in Zambian jails. Asked to specify the allegations, Mr Shipanga said Mr Nujoma "has his own prison at the Namibian Health and Education Centre in Zambia" which was about 400 km north-west of Lusaka.

SWAPO earlier denied that it was holding SWA/Namibian prisoners or keeping prisons in African countries. The organisation's joint secretary for foreign affairs, Mr Nico Bessinger, said that if it was true that SWA/Namibian prisoners were being held in Zambia, Dr Kenneth Kaunda had the power to order their release.

Me Shipanga asked "What happened to Martha Ford?" Mrs Ford, a members of SWAPO's Women's Council, left SWA/Namibia in 1979 for Angola.

Asked whether he would rejoin SWAPO, Mr Shipanga said, "We cannot serve in SWAPO under Mr Nujoma. "I never left SWAPO voluntarily. It was the events of our arrest and 25 months in prison that forced us out." Mr Shipanga said after he had left SWAPO, he had "never attacked SWAPO as an organisation," and added he could "never rejoin under the present leadership."

SWAPO Attempting To 'Kill Off' RSA-Angola Accord

MB061628 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Station commentary: "A Test for the Peacemakers"]

[Text] The latest SWAPO terrorist incursion poses a severe test for the peace agreement reached between South Africa and Angola. The manner in which it is handled in the diplomatic arena — in particular, whether it is clearly recognized as an attempt by SWAPO to overthrow the agreement and is dealt with accordingly — is crucial to the success of the whole initiative. Some 800 SWAPO insurgents have now crossed Angola into the operational area. The number of terrorist incidents increased in the second half of last month to 44, and several terrorists have been shot dead in contacts in South-West Africa with security forces.

Those are the developments on the ground. They take place against a background of SWAPO's expressed reluctance from the start of the Pretoria-Luanda talks to abide by any agreement that would curtail its terrorist activities. SWAPO is out to destroy the peace initiative. Whatever credibility the movement has in the world is based almost entirely on its campaign of sabotage and intimidation, which could not be maintained without the safe haven and logistic support that it has been afforded in Angola up to now.

On both sides, the present situation must be judged against that background, if it is not to derail the peace initiative. From the side of the Angolan Government has come the explanation that the SWAPO crossing through southern Angola took place before the agreement with Pretoria was reached, and before it has moved in to regain control of the territory. On the other side, the South African Governemnt has to face up to its obligation to protect the inhabitants of South-West Africa against SWAPO's campaign of terrorism.

Whatever the circumstances of the latest incursion, the security forces are compelled to react, in whatever manner it may be appropriate, in countering it. It has already been pointed out that the offensive might necessitate a crossing of the border to seek out and neutralize SWAPO. Technically, these developments imply, or contain the prospect of, a breach of the peace agreement, which is based on Angola's pledge to prevent SWAPO from moving into and through the southern region, and South Africa's undertaking to withdraw and enable Luanda to reestablish its sovereignty up to the border.

But if these two objectives of the agreement are to be achieved over a period of time, both the present SWAPO incursion and the military response it might dictate will have to be seen for what they are. To judge them as a breach by either side of the agreement would be premature, when they are clearly the result of attempts by a third party — SWAPO — to destroy that agreement. The true test of the peace agreement will come later when both sides are fully engaged in its implementation.

SWAPO's efforts to kill it off even before it has begun should rather spur the signatories to redouble their own efforts and demonstrate their *bona fides*.

SWAPO Rejects S. Africa's 'Neocolonial' Solutions

MB070851 Lusaka Voice of Namibia in English 1830 GMT 6 Mar 84

["One Namibia, One Nation" program]

[Text] On the diplomatic front SWAPO is being recognized throughout the world as the true representative of the oppressed and downtrodden Namibian masses. To this effect, the United Nations today recognizes SWAPO as the sole and authentic representative of the Namibian people. That recognition has come about because of the effectiveness of the organization in carrying out its duty either on the battlefield or on the diplomatic front. The Namibian people are currently enjoying both material and moral support from progressive forces throughout the world.

It is against this background that today we are at a very critical stage in our struggle for national independence. The South African racist and illegal administration, with the backing of its imperialist allies, continues to employ maneuvers and intrigues aimed at installing and entrenching its puppets in Namibia. To this effect, the racist Pretoria junta has unilaterally instituted a chain of illegal and repressive measures in Namibia. Racist South Africa has generalized and institutionalized aggression against the Namibian people, which has found its expression in innumerable repressive measures such as AG-26 and AG-9 of April and May 1978; the martial law and physical liquidation, kidnapping, arrests, jailing, and torture of the members and supporters of SWAPO throughout Namibia; militarization of Namibia throughout; the increase in the level of racist occupation troops in Namibia; the creation of the so-called South-West Africa Territory Force, which reached its climax with the introduction of forced conscription, which was announced in August 4 years back and put in force since 1 January 1981. All these are attempts and intrigues of racist South Africa against the wishes and aspirations of the Namibian people.

The regime is not serious about finding a genuine solution. It intends to use the negotiations as a breathing space for consolidation of its (?forces) in Namibia. This is a clear testimony that under the intensified war by SWAPO, the Botha regime is totally frustrated in its vain attempt to force its [word indistinct] puppets upon the Namibian people. How can there be peace when injustice and oppression remain in the policies and practices of the Bothas of the world? We are cognizant of the truth but we cannot allow them to condition our attitudes when there is a real opportunity to bring about genuine change in Namibia for our masses.

In order for this to come about, it is absolutely imperative for the United Nations to play the predominant role in giving birth to an independent nation of Namibia. It is the United Nations, with the goodwill and support of all concerned, that must create favorable conditions in Namibia, especially the plural withdrawal of the South African oppression army and police from Namibia, leading to the holding of fair, genuine, and democratic elections. As things stand now, SWAPO is being asked to lay down arms and surrender to the enemy forces, which are busy right now bolstering up their occupation and manipulation of the situation. This we cannot accept.

We totally reject the maneuvers and intrigues by racist South Africa to (?bantustanize) our country and impose its neocolonial solution in Namibia. We would like to make it clear that Namibia belongs to the Namibians, and as long as an inch of Namibia is occupied by racist South Africa, SWAPO will fight till we are truly liberated and the Namibian people become the masters of their own destiny.

At this critical stage of our struggle, we call upon all Namibia patriots to close their ranks and keep united, because it is only through unity of action and purpose that our struggle will soon be crowned with victory.

SOUTH AFRICA

2 More ANC Leaders Offered 'Freedom' in Transkei

MB071033 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 7 Mar 84 p 4

[By Anton Harber, political reporter]

[Excerpt] President Kaizer Matanzima's offer of conditional freedom to Nelson Mandela has also been extended to Walter Sisulu and Govan Mbeki, two other leaders of the African National Congress serving life imprisonment. And while it seems likely the three jailed men will turn down the offer, there is mounting speculation the government could apply the conditional release without the prisoners' consent.

Mrs Mandela, believed to have visited Mr Matanzima two weeks ago, is due to visit her husband in Pollsmoor Prison, Cape Town, on Thursday and Friday. According to sources close to Mandela's family, the SA Prison Services has granted her the visits as part of her normal allocation of visits.

But yesterday she was still awaiting magisterial permission to leave Brandfort in terms of her banning order. She is expected to discuss the offer with him during the visits.

Mrs Albertina Sisulu, wife of Walter Sisulu, is presently in Cape Town visiting her husband.

It was reported earlier this week that Mandela, who has been in jail for 21 years, had been offered release from prison on condition he lived in the Transkei. The offer is believed to have been made by Mr Matanzima, who is Mandela's cousin.

It was ascertained yesterday that Mbeki and Sisulu, who are also serving life imprisonment, received the same offer. Sources close to the families of the men said they were likely to turn down the offer.

But the fact that the government last week ignored the refusal of SWAPO leader Mr Herman Toivo ja Toivo to leave prison has led to speculation that the government could move the ANC leaders to the Transkei without their consent.

Prison Services has denied the release of Mandela was being considered.

RSA Assistance for SADCC Termed 'Welcome'

MB061950 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] The president of the Institute of International Affairs in Zimbabwe, Mr (Boyman Mankhama), says there are misunderstandings about the objectives of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, SADCC, because the organization was not formed specifically as a countermeasure for South Africa. Interviewed by the South African Broadcasting Corporation while he was attending the golden jubilee conference of the South African Institute of International Affairs in Cape Town, Mr (Mankhama) said it was true that SADCC did not want to be entirely dependent on South Africa, but it also did not want to be dependent on any other outside economic forces.

He said SADCC's main purpose was to develop talent within its region, and in the process it would welcome assistance from South Africa or any other force. Mr (Mankhama) said South Africa had developed to a stage where it had no equal in southern Africa. He said changes were taking place every day, and it was his fervent hope that the talks taking place between South Africa, Angola, and Mozambique would make it possible for the SADCC countries and South Africa to come to terms.

RSA Chairman Expresses Optimism

MB051605 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 5 Mar 84

[Text] The chairman of the South African Institute of International Affairs, Mr Harry Oppenheimer, says the latest developments in southern Africa indicate that improved relations between South Africa and its neighbors, and with countries in the West that should be its friends, are in the offing. In an interview in Cape Town, where the institute is holding a conference on cooperation in southern Africa, Mr Oppenheimer said the initiative on the South-West Africa/Namibian issue appeared to be set for success. Another important factor was the major domestic changes in South Africa. Mr Oppenheimer said these developments would make it easier for countries that wanted to be on South Africa's side to come out into the open.

He said he believed that the South African Government was showing a willingness to change and to go a considerable distance to meet the legitimate requirements of people both inside South Africa and beyond its borders. He said he felt that at this stage one could be justified in feeling more optimistic about the future than in the past.

Asked about economic development and change in southern Africa, Mr Oppenheimer said efforts by other states in the region to make themselves independent of South Africa were completely futile. The only way in which their position could be improved was through economic cooperation with South Africa. Politically speaking, it had been virtually impossible for them to cooperate with South Africa, but now that there were changes regarding South-West Africa/Namibia, as well as on the domestic front, this situation could change.

Bill Would Obligate Immigrants for Military Service

MB070910 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] A bill aimed at preventing young immigrants from avoiding military service in South Africa has been published in Cape Town. In terms of the South African Citizenship Amendment Bill, all aliens between the ages of 15 and 25 years who have been permanent residents of South Africa for more than 5 years will obtain South African citizenship automatically by naturalization. The bill also provides that such aliens may declare they do not want to become naturalized citizens, but by so doing they will lose their permanent residence rights.

The most important proposed amendments to the existing act are that the residential period before automatic citizenship is obtained is extended from 2 to 5 years, and that the maximum age is increased from 23 to 25 years.

Military Accepts Two-Thirds of Colored Applicants

MB070707 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] About two-thirds of the number of Coloreds and Indians who voluntarily applied to do military service last year were accepted. The minister of defense, General Malan, said in reply to a question in Parliament that 1,300 of the 2,300 Colored applicants and 153 of the 608 Indian applicants had been approved.

Gen Malan said permanent single quarters for 1,500 Colored volunteers were completed last year. It was his department's intention to improve facilities for Coloreds over the next 5 years so that 2,500 could be accommmodated.

Ciskei To Establish Ministry of Defense 1 April

MB070717 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Ciskei will have a department of defense from 1 April. Making the announcement at Bisho, President Lennox Sebe said the new department would be headed by the deputy minister of defense, the Reverend Mr V.G. Ntshinga, who would become minister of defense.

Bophuthatswana Passes Bill Banning Trade Unions

MB061706 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] The Bophuthatswana parliament has passed a new Industrial Conciliation Bill, which places an automatic ban on South African-based black and white trade unions which have been operating in Bophuthatswana. The passing of the bill means that there will be no recognized trade union in Bophuthatswana until unions begin to register with the government. The conditions of operating in the country include clauses such as that unions must be made up of people working in Bophuthatswana, must be nonracial, and must register with the government.

Speaking in parliament at Mmabatho today, the minister of manpower, Mr Rowan Cronje, warned would-be union leaders against using the unions for political purposes.

ZAMBIA

Prime Minister Mundia Meets Soviet Delegation

MB061922 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Prime Minister Nalumino Mundia has said Zambia was most indebted for the technical, material, and moral assistance she got from the Soviet Union, dating many years before the country obtained her independence. The prime minister made these remarks in his office when he met a 3-man Soviet delegation led by a member of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, who is also a deputy of the Supreme Soviet, and the second secretary of the Communist Party of Kazakh Republic, Mr Oleg Semenovich Miroshkhin. Mr Mundia said Zambia appreciated the contribution made by the Soviet Union towards the country's liberation, and that of a number of African countries. He said Namibia has yet to get its independence and that South Africa was occupying the UN-mandated territory illegally. Mr Mundia said Zambia was looking to all progressive forces for cooperation in assuring the independence of Namibia. He also informed the visiting Soviet leader about the 3-year consecutive drought which has afflicted the southern African region, including Zambia.

Mr Miroshkhin, in reply, spoke highly of Zambia's achievements in the last 20 years of her independence, adding that his country held His Excellency President Kaunda in high esteem.

Later, Political and Legal Affairs Committee Chairman Daniel Lisulo also had talks with the Soviet team. Repyling to Mr Lisulo's welcoming remarks, Mr Miroshkhin expressed the hope that his delegation's visit of one week in Zambia would help in strengthening links that exist between the Soviet people and Zambians, and between their parties.

Provincial Head Expresses Gratitude

MB060801 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 6 Mar 84

[Text] Zambia has expressed gratitude to the Soviet Union for the continued support she has given the country since the pre-independence days. Provincial political secretary for Lusaka, (Kenneth Chifunda), expressed the gratitude when a three-man Soviet delegation led by Oleg Semenovich Miroshkhin, a member of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party, called on him yesterday afternoon.

Mr (Chifunda) said that the Soviet Union had come to Zambia's aid several times before and after independence and the United National Independence Party was grateful for this support. The Soviet delegation said the Soviet people admired Zambia's effort to give (?pride) to human dignity and to fight for peace.

ZIMBABWE

SADCC Executive Secretary Blumeris Dies in Harare

MB070813 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] Funeral arrangements for the former executive secretary of the Southern African Development Coordination Conference, SADCC, Comrade Arthur Blumeris, who died in Harare yesterday, will be announced later today. Comrade Blumeris fell ill while in Harare last week en route to Brussels for official meetings and was admitted to Parirenyatwo Hospital, where he later died.

In a message of condolence to the Blumeris family, the prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, said Comrade Blumeris was an able and conscientious public servant who contributed greatly towards unity and cooperation within the SADCC. Comrade Mugabe said his death is most untimely and is a severe blow and an irreplaceable loss.

Comrade Blumeris, who was Zimbabwe's ambassador to Brussels and the European Economic Community before his SADCC post, joined the ZANU-PF in 1963. He served as its external representative and is survived by his wife and two children.

Mugabe Says Local Government Democratized

MB070743 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, says the concept of local government would be meaningless if it does not encompass the aspect of democracy. He was speaking when he officially opened the African regional congress of the International Union of Local Authorities in Harare yesterday.

Comrade Mugabe said any attempt to establish local administration systems of government will fail if the people are not included. He said the government introduced legislation at independence which democratizes local government, resulting in African-majority countries.

Comrade Mugabe said the government is setting up various developmental communities from village to provincial level, adding that the first step toward this objective is the recent appointment of eight provincial governors.

Matabeleland North Leader Cites Development Goals

MB070727 Harare Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 7 Mar 84

[Text] The governor for Matabeleland North, Comrade Daniel Ngwenya, says the government is determined to develop all rural areas through the establishment of viable growth points and rural service centers.

Comrade Ngwenya was speaking at the official opening of the Bulawayo mini trade fair yesterday. He said such centers will provide a cash economy and generate employment for rural people. Comrade Ngwenya said the minifair should be seen as a social contact and shop window for both the exhibitors and the viewers. The fair, which ends on Sunday, is being attended by exhibitors from all over the country.